

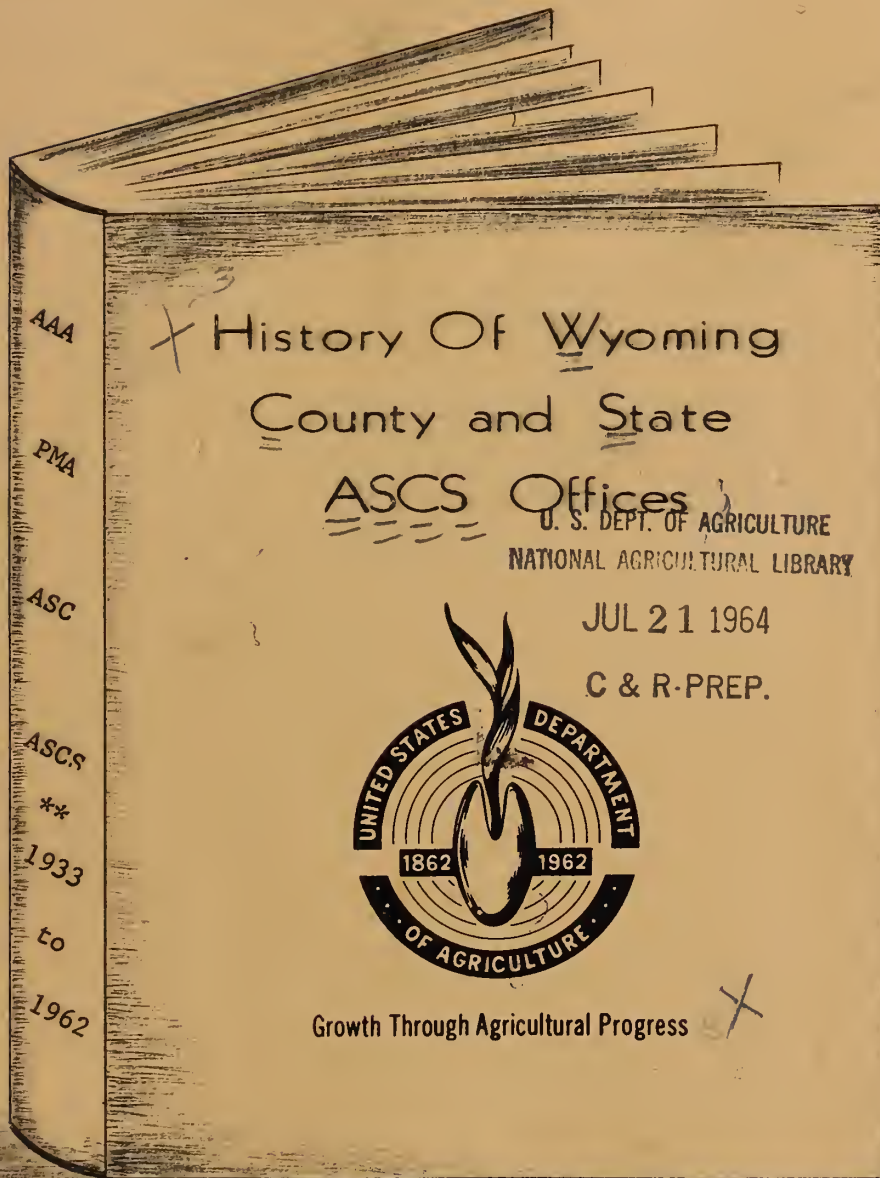
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AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CASPER, WYOMING

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## P R E F A C E

Our reasons for embarking upon this project are given in the foreword and introduction. Something should be said of the people and effort involved in the finished product.

We would like to express our appreciation to the people in the county offices for their cooperation and efforts in compiling the historical resumes of their counties. Most of these have appeared in the newspapers of the respective counties and have contributed to better public understanding of agricultural program background and intentions.

Our special thanks to the ex-State committeemen and their families who were so kind as to make available to us pictures of themselves for display in the State office. This was done at considerable trouble to many of them. A composite picture of State committeemen, past and present, appears on page 121 of this book. Thanks also to the Extension Service for providing pictures of the ex-officio members of the State committee.

There are many individuals whose personal efforts were certainly above and beyond the dictates of duty in accomplishing the publication in your hands. Among these are Al Cheesbrough, upon whose shoulders fell the bulk of the burden of editing, arranging, coordinating, organizing and general "master-minding" of the operation. His problems were compounded by the fact that this particular job had a necessarily low "priority" and was often "side-tracked" for other demands on his time.

In our "Art Department" we have George Gibbs and George Lowham who developed and reproduced the pictures at night on their own time and Helen McCall, who should be credited with the artwork. We are very pleased with their efforts.

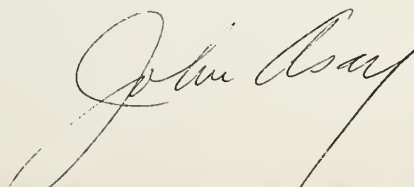
In one county we had an assist from a newspaperman, Ken Robinson, who did a very good job of editing and re-writing the Carbon County story. This will be found on page 13 and is worth reading as an example of objectivity in viewing the programs and intentions of this and predecessor agencies.

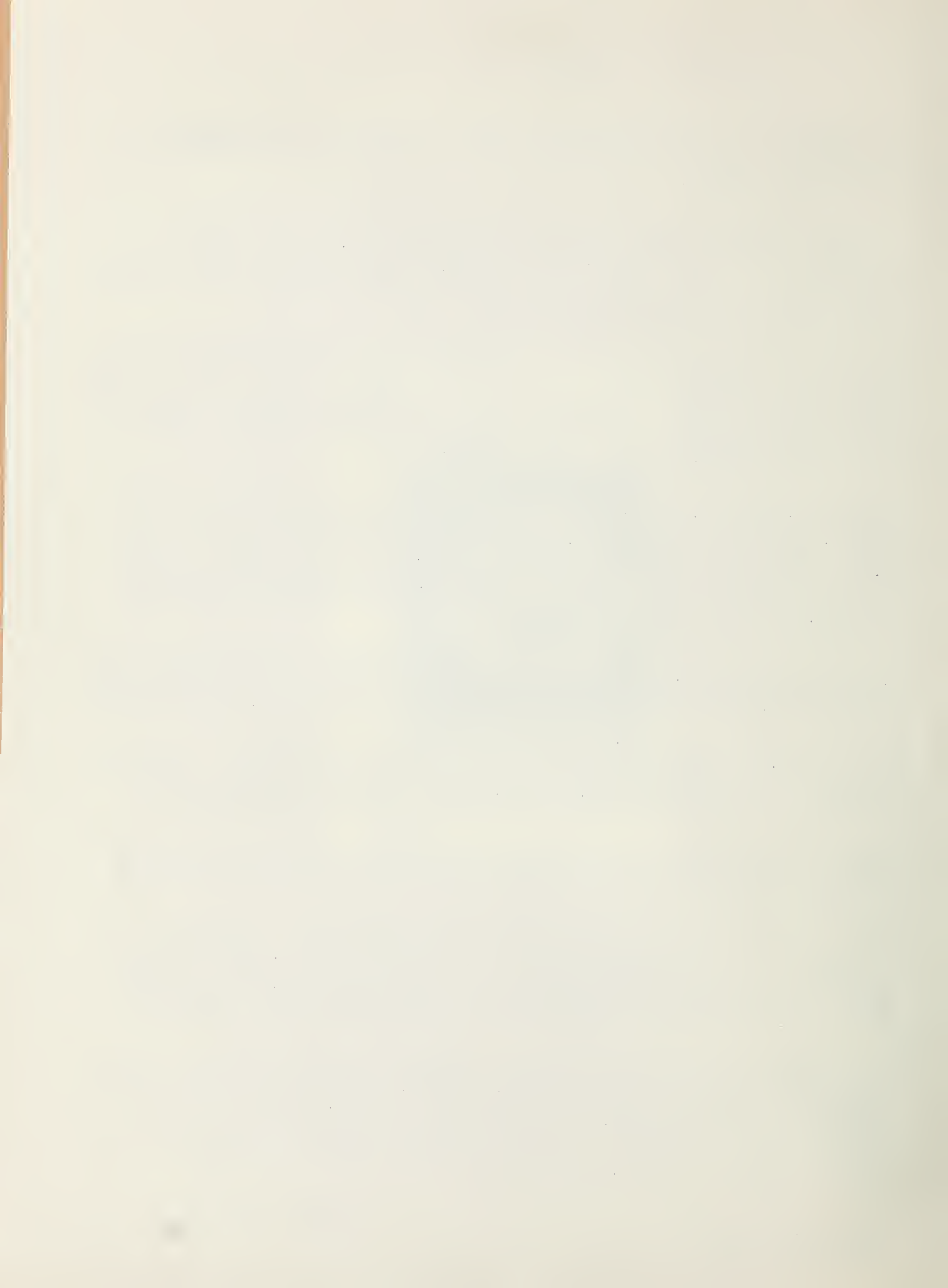
The State office history was a matter of collaboration among the many "old hands" in the office and we are happy to have had Milton Turner's help in editing this portion.

There are many others who gave valuable assistance which is sincerely appreciated even though their names are not mentioned due to the limitation of space. We are very grateful to our Fieldmen for their time and effort spent getting together the pictures and to "the girls" in the office for their typing, assembling, interest and cooperation in completing this job.

We hope this book will be interesting, useful and even entertaining to those whose memories may be piqued. We hope it might also help to further understanding and respect for the accomplishments, attempts and intentions of agriculture and its programs. May it serve as a humble tribute to those who gave their time and energy to the often thankless job of government administration in the national interest.

John O. Asay  
December 13, 1963





## F O R E W O R D

The occasion of the centennial of the U. S. Department of Agriculture caused us to recognize how fast time passes and how easily and rapidly the events of past years fade from our memory.

In order to preserve at least some of the history of our ASCS offices in Wyoming, County Office Managers have written a brief history of their offices - likewise a brief history of the State office was compiled.

This publication contains a copy of each of the office histories. At the time these histories were written the ASCS office and farmer-committee system were nearly 30 years old.

A limited number of additional copies are available at the Wyoming ASCS State Office, 345 East Second Street, P. O. Box 1211, Casper, Wyoming.



## SPECIAL MESSAGE TO READERS

It is a difficult undertaking to briefly cover the pertinent events in nearly 30 years of operation of the ASCS county and State offices. The actual participation in the programs administered by ASCS are pretty well documented in reports prepared annually. Therefore, this portion of the history of ASCS offices is pretty well preserved.

The following office histories are an attempt to cover pertinent events, names of persons serving Agriculture through ASC, etc., rather than the volume of participation and program accomplishments.

We solicit your aid in furnishing to us any pertinent information which has been omitted from any of the enclosed office histories. We will be glad to either furnish revised pages or supplemental pages to include information and events you feel should be included in any of the county or State office histories.

### Who Are These Men?



Can you name the men on this Wheat Allotment Committee of 1933-35? If so, please send us their names.

How about tying some names to the faces of the pictures accompanying the Platte and Sheridan County histories on pages 81 and 87. If you can name these people, let us know.



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## I N T R O D U C T I O N

Within the covers of this publication is contained a small portion of the history of the county and State ASCS offices in Wyoming. These offices are a part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which on May 15, 1962 celebrated its centennial or 100th birthday. The USDA and the ASCS offices have no reason for existence unless they perform a needed service for the good of our country. Generally the services performed and programs administered by ASCS have been requested by the majority of the citizens of our country through their Congressmen.

When the U. S. Department of Agriculture was born, only a century ago, most Americans lived on and from the land. It was settled where available and where needed. At first, differences in fertility -- even between mountains and valleys -- were almost ignored. The new and apparently boundless land offered unlimited opportunities to start a home and provide for a family.

Food was produced mainly for the farm family and domestic animals. Staple foods were stored through the winters. A single crop failure could bring incredible hardship. The winter season provided time needed to convert fibers into clothing and timber into lumber for buildings and furniture. A small part of farm output was used for townspeople and foreign markets.

If and when the land "wore out" men moved on, broke new land, and began anew. The need and means to maintain fertility, timber growth, grasslands and sparkling streams were little known, for these resources seemed limitless.

The public has maintained a continuous interest in these natural resources through tax powers, reclamation, and the right of public domain. But a national responsibility for these natural resources and their careful use developed slowly. The Nation awoke only after millions of acres were ruined -- some through needless exploitation, some through greed, some through ignorance, and some through necessity.

The pendulum began to swing toward land reclamation and land maintenance in the 1930's, when widespread rural poverty could no longer be ignored -- only after clouds of dust swept into cities, with proof of wasting conditions of our lands, forests, ranges and streams. New laws provided funds, technical aid, and improved policies to encourage farmland conservation and to balance and adequately relate supply and demand. The farmer elected committee system and their ASCS offices were authorized and recommended in these new laws passed in the 1930's.

The purpose of the farm program administered by ASCS is:

1. To conserve the agricultural resources of the Nation; prevent the wasteful use of soil fertility; to preserve, maintain, and rebuild the farm and ranch resources in the National public interest; to accomplish these purposes through the encouragement of soil-building and soil-conserving crops and practices.
2. To balance and adequately relate supply and demand. Since agricultural production is a biological process that cannot be greatly accelerated or retarded in a short time and is dependent upon the weather, there is no automatic force which spontaneously tends to bring production and demand together when they are out of proper balance.

## II

3. To assist farmers to obtain when possible parity prices for their crops and parity of income. We know that when farm income drops sharply, farmers go out of the market for many products of industry and there is a major down pull of the National economy. The small business houses in farm communities feel this loss of business immediately. Manufacturers of farm implements and other goods farmers buy also feel it promptly. Eventually the whole economy, including labor, suffers from this loss in farm buying power.
4. To assure consumers of a steady supply of agricultural products at a fair price.
5. To provide voluntary programs through which farmers can, to a certain extent, control the supply of their produce to the demand. Other segments of our economy, such as labor and industry accomplish this through organized unions and corporations enjoying government protection and sanction.

Federal farm programs administered through the ASCS offices are:

1. Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)
2. Sugar Program
3. Price Support Program
4. Wool Program
5. Wheat Stabilization Program
6. Feed Grain Program
7. Marketing Quotas (in Wyoming, only wheat)
8. Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
9. Soil Bank Program

All of the Federal farm programs are aimed at keeping the National economy strong now and in the future. Since agriculture is the only segment of our economy that produces new natural resources annually and our National economy is wholly dependent upon natural resources, every individual in our Nation should have a keen interest in maintaining an economically healthy agricultural industry.

The trend from a rural, agricultural nation to a predominately city-town one has brought major changes in farm production. The farmer of today is a buyer, a seller, a taxpayer, a consumer, a manufacturer, a businessman and a worker. He is also an efficient producer -- today one farm worker supplies food, fiber and other products for 27 people whereas in the 1930's he supplied the needs of 10 or 11 people. At the same time, consumers are able to purchase their food for a smaller percentage of their paycheck than back in the 30's.

The Federal farm programs administered by ASCS have contributed heavily to lessening human suffering in making the conversion from an agricultural to an industrial nation and have been extremely helpful in keeping agricultural prices stable, thus avoiding a sharp decline in farm income, which would bring on a prolonged farm depression that would affect our entire national economy.

The farmer committeemen who administer the programs assigned to ASCS are a vital part of the organization and are responsible for keeping the programs practical and effectively administered. It is natural that nobody would know

### III

as much about the people and problems of a community as the folks who live there. When they have spent all their lives, or a better part of it, in a farm community they get to know a lot about the soil, the weather conditions, the financial problems of the area, and especially about the thinking of the people. That is why committeemen, who have down-to-earth knowledge about the community, county and State were chosen as the administrators of the farm programs assigned to ASCS to administer.

The attitude and dedication of ASC committeemen and their office employees in doing a good job of administering the programs and serving the farmers and public in general can best be illustrated by the following statement by John Alexander:

"I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefor that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."





ALBANY COUNTY

1963 County Committee and Personnel



Left to right: Roy Sims, County Committeeman; Richard C. Williams, Chairman, County Committee; Maureen S. Johnson, Clerk; James R. L. May, County Committeeman; and Robert M. Boulter, County Office Manager.

Missing from the picture is Gordon Smith, County Agent and Ex-Officio Member of the County Committee; Fred E. Gibbs and Thomas H. Page served on the County Committee in 1962.





HISTORY OF ALBANY ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
November 30, 1962

This year the U. S. Department of Agriculture is celebrating its 100th anniversary. It is an appropriate time to reminisce on the approximate quarter century that the ASCS and predecessor offices have been in operation in Albany County.

Prior to 1936 the work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Albany County was performed by the County Agricultural Agent and the Forest Service. The depression and general depressed farm prices in the "black" Thirties caused Congress to pass legislation authorizing Federal farm programs. These programs prior to 1936 were handled by Ray O. Westley, County Agricultural Agent.

In March 1936 Mr. Westley resigned and was succeeded by Arthur Hay as County Agent. Mr. Hay brought to Albany County a wealth of ten years' experience in Weston County and in the State of Illinois. He was very instrumental and energetic in helping to get the new AAA programs into operation.

The first organization of the AAA in Albany County was a county committee consisting of Earl H. Gibbs, Chairman; Orville Lippold, Vice-Chairman; R. E. O'Donnell, regular member; Earl Flaharty as alternate member; Arthur Hay, County Agent, as secretary; and Lyla Jean Craig as treasurer and office assistant. About this time we had two programs of extreme interest and importance to Albany County. They were the Cropland Conservation Program and the Range Conservation Program. It was decided to add two additional ranch members to the county committee. The new members of the county committee were S. D. Gillespie and Ralph Hall. The Albany County farmers and ranchers were particularly interested in carrying out cropland and range conservation as 104 operators made application to participate in one, or both, of these programs.

For the 1938 programs the county was divided into four communities, Rock River, Bosler, Laramie and Harmony. The farmers and ranchers elected to the community committees were:

Rock River: Carl J. Horn, Chairman  
Otto Kassahn, Vice-Chairman  
William Kennedy, Regular Member  
Werner Banzhof, Alternate

Bosler: Earl H. Gibbs, Chairman  
R. E. O'Donnell, Vice-Chairman  
Ted Peden, Regular Member  
B. W. Smith, Alternate

Albany County -

Laramie: Gudman Sundby, Chairman  
A. F. Hurich, Vice-Chairman  
Knud Knudsen, Regular Member  
H. J. King, Alternate

Harmony: Orville Lippold, Chairman  
H. G. Mortensen, Vice-Chairman  
Clair Stickley, Regular Member  
Howard Mortensen, Alternate

Delegates from these community committeemen met on December 16, 1937 and elected the following as county committeemen and officers of the association:

Earl H. Gibbs, Chairman  
Orville Lippold, Vice-Chairman  
Gudman Sundby, Regular Member  
Arthur V. Hay, Secretary  
Lyla Jean Craig, Treasurer and Office Assistant.

The Agricultural Conservation Program has continued to the present time to be a valuable program for developing needed stockwater and conserving the soil of Albany County farms and ranches.

Late in 1941 the ASC committees were called on to work with other U.S.D.A. agencies on Defense Boards to meet the agricultural needs of wartime. The first Albany County U.S.D.A. Defense Board members were Gudman Sundby, ASC, Chairman; Gordon Sanford, Farm Security Administration, member; and Arthur Hay, Secretary. The U.S.D.A. was changed to the U.S.D.A. War Board and performed such services as rationing of new farm machinery, repair parts, tires, gas, farm transportation, etc. By 1944 the membership of the War Board had changed to T. B. Dodge (ASC) Chairman; Francis McVay and C. E. Averill (Forest Service), members; and Arthur Hay (County Agent), as secretary.

Mr. Hay continued as Secretary of the ASC County Committee and the U.S.D.A. County War Board until May 1, 1944. At that time the ASC office moved from the Extension Office, and a secretary was appointed (now known as the County Office Manager) who could devote full time to the administration of the ASC programs. Mr. Hay continued to serve as an ex-officio member of the ASC County Committee.

Throughout the last twenty-five years the county office administering these programs has been known as Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA); Agricultural Conservation Administration (ACA); Production and Marketing Administration (PMA); Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) and currently is referred to as the Albany ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) County Office.

## Albany County --

The programs administered by the ASCS at the present time are the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Commodity Loan Program, the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program, the Wheat Allotment and Marketing Quota Program, the Wool Incentive Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wheat Stabilization Program and the Feed Grain Program. The Agricultural Conservation Program has always been the program that best fits the needs of a predominantly range county like Albany. The Wool Incentive Program, authorized in 1954, has been well accepted and used in this county. Most of the other programs are either inactive or little used since we have very little farming in our county.

Many people will recognize and remember the following persons who worked in the ASCS and predecessor county office: Bertha Johnson Harvey, Ila Alberts, Jean Beltz, Mary C. Olsen, Janis L. Lundvall, Earl H. Gibbs, R. E. O'Donnell, Gerald B. Engen, Fred B. Knadler, Jr., Clair B. Stickney, Robert N. Newkirk, Leah Harbison, Lorraine L. Waring, Helen Hurick, and Robert M. Boulter.

The present county committee consists of Richard C. Williams, Chairman; Thomas H. Page, Vice-Chairman; Fred Gibbs, Regular Member; Roy Sims and Adrian Weaver, Jr., Alternates; and Gordon Smith (County Agent) ex-officio member. The committees have always been farmers and ranchers elected by their neighbors.

The office is managed by Robert M. Boulter, who assumed the position of County Office Manager on September 1, 1960. He brought with him a wealth of experience gained as manager and supervisor in Sublette County. The office is located at 511 Ivinson.

It is fun to reminisce, but there is always the danger of overlooking some name or event of interest to someone. Any omissions of names or events overlooked in this article was an oversight and not intentional.

\* \* \* \* \*





BIG HORN COUNTY

1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND PERSONNEL



Left to right: Howard Wyckoff, County Office Manager; Perry B. Coxe, Assistant County Agent; Victor Winterholler, Member of County Committee; Brownie J. Browne, Chairman, County Committee; Meldon J. Tanner, Performance Supervisor.



John R. Lowe, Head Program Clerk; Howard Wyckoff, County Office Manager; Gladys Clack, Chief Clerk.

Missing from pictures: Charles Riedl, Member of the County Committee; and John W. Eckerdt, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee. Also missing from the picture is Robert Stevens, 1962 County Committeeman.



HISTORY OF BIG HORN ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
August 28, 1962

As the United States Department of Agriculture celebrates the Centennial Anniversary of establishment of the Department, so does the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service pass another milestone.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act, predecessor of the ASC was enacted by Congress in the mid-1930's. When realizing the need for a more stabilized agriculture, the Congress passed and President Roosevelt signed into law a bill authorizing the AAA and set up farmer committees to handle program assignments at State, county and community levels.

Hans Hansen of Lovell was one of the first county committeemen to serve on the AAA in Big Horn County and Heber S. Tippetts of Lovell was appointed on the first Wyoming State Committee. Harry Allison of Basin, Walt Preis of Emblem and Bill Heagney of Lovell served on the Big Horn County Committee in the early part of the program. Roy Snell of Byron, Palmer Gormley of Burlington, R. L. Henderson of Basin and H. L. Jolley of Lovell are among men who have served on the Wyoming AAA and ASC Committees.

In the early years of the program, the Extension Service played a great part in organizing and helping farmer committees. K. D. Van Wagenen, County Agent, became the first secretary to the Big Horn County AAA Committee. By 1942, the programs and assignments were well enough understood by the farmer committees and with Extension work becoming heavier, it was decided that county committees should take more part in everyday program operations.

On January 1, 1942, Roy Snell of Byron was elected Chairman of the county committee, with J. F. Brosious of Kane and Herb Bishop of Manderson being elected to membership. This new committee then appointed Howard Wyckoff of Lovell as their secretary and Office Manager.

The Sugar Act which was enacted for protection of domestic sugar beet and sugar cane producers through incentive payments was one of the first programs assigned to AAA committees. Restrictions on sugar beet plantings under the Act were first invoked in 1939 and again for the crop year of 1941. It was not necessary to restrict the production of sugar beets again until the year 1955 after which restrictions remained in effect through 1960.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is one of the major ASC programs. This is the program of cost-sharing with farmers for carrying out of approved soil and water conservation practices. The successful application of this program is evidenced by the leveling operations of



Big Horn County -

irrigable fields, seeped and bogged areas which have been drained and reclaimed for agricultural purposes, concrete lined irrigation ditches and irrigation structures.

The Price Support Program offered on commodities including wheat, feed grains and beans is among other related activities of the ASC Committee. In some instances, growers are required to reduce plantings of some crops to qualify for price support.

The National Wool Act of 1954 was assigned to the ASC for administration. This program is designed to bring domestic producers an average minimum price of 62 cents per pound. Funds for making payments under the National Wool Incentive Program come from duties collected on imports of wool and wool manufacturers.

During World War II, county and State committees were assigned to USDA war boards. War boards were given the task of rationing farm machinery, assisting Selective Service with placing and deferring agricultural workers and helping to plan ways of meeting production goals of agricultural commodities.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CAMPBELL COUNTY

### 1962 County Committee and Personnel



Left to right: Bernice M. Carlton, Program Clerk; Mildred M. Huravitch, Chief Clerk; Dan W. Carson, County Committeeman; S. Edward Sharp, County Committeeman; Merle Jordan, Chairman, County Committee; Roy Tays, County Office Manager; and in the inset, Charles S. Kenitzer, Performance Supervisor.

Missing from the picture is Melvin E. Lynch, County Agent and Ex-Officio Member of the County Committee; Donald Howell replaced Dan Carson on the 1963 County Committee.



HISTORY OF CAMPBELL ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
May 10, 1962

This week the U. S. Department of Agriculture is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Up until 1933 the functions of the USDA were virtually unknown in Campbell County. During the year 1933 Mr. Donald Sabin who was operator of the State Experimental Farm here was appointed as emergency agricultural assistant in Campbell County.

This was a period of surplus wheat, when the market was disastrously low. As a corrective measure the Campbell County Wheat control program was organized under the supervision of the community and county committees who were elected by the farmers. The paper work was handled by the County Extension Agent's Office, assisted by one clerk hired by the county committee. In this wheat program farmers voluntarily signed up to reduce their wheat and drew a cash payment. Lewis Grams was chief clerk of this program.

Floyd Dominy was appointed County Agent in 1934 and the corn-hog program was organized. This program was designed to reduce surpluses of corn and hogs. This was a separate program from the wheat program.

During 1934 the area was a drought area and the USDA brought cattle when the prices fell so low the rancher could not ship them to market and realize anything above the freight.

The sheep market was in about the same shape, so sheep were also bought by the USDA. Thousands of sheep and cattle were killed because there was no market for them.

About 1936 the Supreme Court declared the process tax unconstitutional and this cut off the source of income which farm programs were paid. Congress then passed the original Agricultural Adjustment Act to handle all farm programs and emergencies. All farm programs were united under the A.A.A. which was operated in the county under the elected committee system, with offices combined with Mr. Dominy's Extension Service Office.

1936 was another drought stricken year and the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) was brought into being as a range improvement program. Under this program farmers drew cash payments for range improvement practices. These practices were for stockwater developments and range conservation. Payments were also made for planting soil-building crops. The board of directors on the ACP Program was J. M. Isenberger, president, R. W. Wilson, vice-president, Floyd Dominy, secretary and Lewis Grams, treasurer.



Campbell County -

During 1937, 187 ranchers constructed stockwater dams on their own ranches for a total of 236 reservoirs. As an incentive the ranchers received about 15 cents per cubic yard for constructing these dams. Many springs and wells were also developed to improve range land. Farmers were encouraged to seed cropland back to grasses and legumes.

Floyd Dominy left the county in 1938 and Ben Kohrs replaced him as County Agent. The USDA programs were handled in his office with three clerks and several fieldmen to stake dirt work and measure fields.

By 1939 the USDA programs under the A.A.A. included the Agricultural Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and Wheat Loan Programs. In 1939 Campbell County had a wheat allotment of 44,065 acres as compared to 31,000 acres for 1962. In 1940 Campbell County was re-organized into the 13 communities we now have. Previously there were only 8 communities.

Participation and interest in the various programs were growing each year as the farmers began to see the benefits.

In 1941 the ACP Program paid \$174,500 to ranchers for range and cropland improvement. There were 785 ranchers participating.

There were 81 warehouse-stored wheat loans made to farmers which totalled \$165,971. \$25,549 in parity payments were made to 470 wheat farmers.

The representative of the agencies of the USDA were organized into a Defense Board in October of 1941.

In 1942 the A.A.A. separated their office from the Extension Office, but the County Agent still acted as secretary to the A.A.A. committee. Lewis Grams was chief clerk with two other clerks and Leon White was county supervisor with several fieldmen mapping fields and laying out conserving practices. The present office manager, Roy Tays, was one of these fieldmen.

The USDA war board was set up during 1942. This board consisted of Mel Isenberger of the A.A.A., Garth Percival of the Farm Security Administration, A. R. Kessler of the Crop and Seed Loan Office, E. P. Coyle of the National Farm Loan Association, and Richard Peck of the Soil Conservation Service. This committee had charge of authorizing distribution of machinery, tires, fuel and other rationed commodities. The war board also set food goals and helped find farm labor and tried to stimulate the buying of bonds.

After the war the USDA continued with all programs except the emergency programs. Farmers had been urged to plant more wheat during the war, so much of the land seeded to soil conserving uses had been replowed and many

Campbell County -

acres of new sod had been broken out and put into crop production. This is when the surplus in wheat started.

Each year the production exceeded the demand and C.C.C. began acquiring more and more wheat until the present time.

The USDA kept developing new programs to assist farmers in adjusting their operations to a more practical basis and at the same time maintain the farm income.

Wheat allotments were declared again in 1953 and the wheat farmers were given a referendum vote on marketing quotas. More than 66 2/3 percent have voted in favor of marketing quotas every year since, so quotas have been in effect.

The old Agricultural Adjustment Administration (A.A.A.) was changed to the Agricultural Conservation Administration (A.C.A.) in 1942. In about 1948 it was changed to Production and Marketing Administration (P.M.A.); in 1952 or 1953 to Agricultural Stabilization Committee, and in 1962, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (A.S.C.S.).

The Soil Conservation Service came into Campbell County in 1950. In 1952 the technical service of ACP Program was delegated to the SCS where it has remained ever since.

The programs administered by the ASCS at the present time are the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Commodity Loan Program, the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program, the Wheat Allotment and Marketing Quota Program, the Wool Incentive Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Emergency Drought Livestock Feed Program, and the new Wheat Stabilization Program and the Feed Grain Program.

The present county committee consists of Merle Jordan, Chairman, Dan W. Carson, Vice Chairman and S. Edward Sharp, regular member. The committees have always been elected by the farmers.

Those employed on a steady basis by the Campbell County ASC Committee at the present time are Roy Tays, Office Manager; Charles Kenitzer, Performance Supervisor; Mildred Huravitch, Chief Clerk; and Bernice Carlton, Program Clerk.

The offices of the ASCS in Campbell County were originally in the court house basement; they then moved to the First State Bank Building, back to the court house, then to the old grade school, and to their present location in the McHenry Building on fourth street.

In looking back over the years we can see many changes since 1933. The wheat allotment for the county is less, the number of farms has decreased, the weights per beef animal have increased, the weight of wool sheared per animal is greater, the cropland acres being farmed are less, new methods have been introduced, which have lessened the man hours required and the number of programs handled has greatly increased.





## CARBON COUNTY

### 1962 and 1963 County Committee and Personnel



Left to right: (Standing) Robert J. Johnson, Chairman, County Committee; Thomas A. Stratton, County Committeeman; Henry Finch, County Committeeman; (Seated) Elsa Joe Francis, Program Clerk; Oswald I. Seaverson, County Office Manager; and Lila L. Walbye, Chief Clerk.

Missing from picture - Perry Coxe, 1962 County Agent and Ex-Officio Member of the 1962 County Committee; and Dick Hiser, 1963 County Agent and Ex-Officio Member of the 1963 County Committee.



## HISTORY OF CARBON ASCS COUNTY OFFICE

May 1, 1963

(Editors Note: This month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture begins its second 100 years of existence. One of the most active of the USDA organizations operating in Carbon County is the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the history of which is outlined in the following two-part article written for the Daily Times by staff writer Ken Robinson.)

During the past 27 years, utter disregard for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in Carbon County has turned into respect.

The disregard resulted from theories expressed by members of the service which seemed meaningless to ranchers and farmers in Carbon County in 1936.

The general public's opinion was the theories taught nothing and settled nothing, but at that time, Carbon County was peopled by those who believed in only what they could do for themselves. These people didn't want to hear theories and they weren't willing to adopt new ways of doing things.

That's why there was no respect for the ASCS when it was first established in Carbon County, and why ASCS personnel didn't have many friends to begin with. Nobody wanted to talk with them, but that didn't matter. They just kept right on until people began to take time to listen to what they were saying.

At first, however, even those who took time to listen to talks on the ASCS programs never really thought about them. But later, after they were exhausted from striving in vain to accomplish the impossible, they thought about the ASCS programs and began to ask the ASCS for assistance.

There's still some skepticism about the ASCS in Carbon County, but not nearly as much as there was in 1936. Employees of the service are presenting theories that still seem meaningless to people, and they are still talking to people who don't want to take time to listen to them.

Today, however, the service has the respect of the majority and programs being offered by the ASCS are now being accepted with less and less skepticism by more and more people.

Agricultural programs have been under way in Carbon County for a long time.

This year, however, the U. S. Department of Agriculture celebrated its 100th anniversary and in commemoration and to familiarize people with the ASCS the Carbon County ASCS office personnel in Rawlins have compiled the history of the service in the county to make more people aware of it.

## Carbon County -

Those still objecting to the ASCS say: "A man should stand on his own two feet and not depend upon the government to hold him up. Besides, why should a person be paid for doing nothing."

Those in favor of the ASCS say they are not being paid for nothing, but to help regulate markets. The ASCS has done more good for ranchers and farmers than any other organization.

To decide who is right, a person has to understand the purpose of the ASCS.

In effect, it sets up various agricultural and conservation programs designed to help ranchers. So many of these programs have been established that it's difficult for people to keep track of them. But the ASCS today is like a father to ranchers and farmers. Whatever their ranching problems are, ASCS personnel are ready and willing to listen and to help.

The ASCS office in Rawlins was established in connection with the Agricultural Adjustment Act passed by Congress.

Prior to 1936 various farm programs in Carbon County were being paid for by a process tax, but it was declared unconstitutional in that year.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act establishment in 1936 was referred to as the "Triple A". It was operated by an elected committee with offices located in the Post Office building together with the County Agent's office.

In 1940, the new courthouse was completed in Rawlins and office space was made available for the County Agent and the ASCS which remained there until moved to its present location at 319 Wyoming Street.

In the first year of the A.A.A., range conservation practices were carried out on eight ranches in Carbon County. These practices consisted of six pits and reservoirs and two spring or seep developments. The number of projects increased considerably each year and by 1939, 115 ranches were participating in the range conservation. By this time a total of 239 pits and reservoirs were constructed, 42 springs and seeps were developed, and 20 wells drilled. In addition, deferred grazing practices, spreader dam, terraces and rodent control were carried out under the range conservation program.

To begin with, the A.A.A. was approached with caution by ranchers. In their minds in 1936 were memories of wholesale slaughter of livestock which the government claimed was necessary to regulate the market during the depression. The ranchers then weren't thinking of stories about this slaughter, but of the actual experience of seeing sheep purchased for \$1 a head and slaughtered by the flock.



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Perhaps what made ranchers more skeptical of any agency connected with the government was the memory of the meat of thousands of sheep being burned with coal oil so that it could not be used for food by humans when the nation was in the deepest depths of the great depression.

Many ranchers refused to sell their sheep to the government because, as one rancher said at the time, "Why should an animal suffer for the mistake of a human."

There was a great deal of bitterness expressed among ranchers in the county at the time, and considerable hopelessness. Many ranchers felt like they had been betrayed somehow, and were unwilling to rebuild their ranches. Those ranchers who faced the trying times with faith however, were later convinced that the government was working for instead of against them.

In 1936 ranchers in Carbon County had more to learn about conservation and stabilization than they could imagine. They couldn't comprehend the reason for many ASCS projects at first, but they tried and that was all they needed to do.

"At first I was against signing up for money for not growing a crop. But then I looked around and saw all the other ranchers doing it and I thought I'd better get a little of that government money while there was still some left," said one rancher jokingly referring to one of the ASCS projects.

From 1936 until 1939 there was also an increase in participation in the program for farms. Carried out were such conservation practices as summer fallow, increasing acreage of non-depleting crops and decreased acreage of soil-depleting crops, seeding of legumes and grasses, reseeding depleted pastures and deferred grazing on non-crop pasture land, diversion on spreader ditches and check dams.

After experimenting in several states in 1940 and '41, the range conservation and AC program were combined in 1942 under one program.

There has always been some dissention among farmers and ranchers, just as there has always been between cattle and sheep ranchers.

After the range and farm practices were combined in 1942, one rancher came into the Rawlins ASCS office and wanted to sign up for an ASCS program. He was given a form to fill out, but refused because where he was to sign his name there was a word, farmer. The rancher wouldn't sign his name until the word rancher was substituted for farmer even though the ASCS office personnel explained that for all practical purposes the two words meant the same thing.



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There never was any real trouble over the distinction between farmers and ranchers however. Probably other than a few barroom fights, there was never any real trouble between the cattle and sheep ranchers from the time the ASCS came into existence. Of course there's always been lots of kidding on both sides of the range. There's the old saying that a good cowboy is just a worn-out sheep herder and that a sheep herder is a dude who tried but couldn't do a cowboy's work.

Wheat allotments had been in effect in Carbon County for several years, but in 1941 a concentrated effort was set forth to produce the amount needed in the war effort. In 1942 the total allotments were eliminated in order to promote increased acreage of crops called by the defense program, and at the same time, every effort was made to avoid the farm depression that was caused after World War I by poor organization of the farm lands and lack of care in forced production.

With the end of the war in 1945 many felt that this excessive drain on our reserve of soil fertility would come to an end. But the nation marched from a war against tyranny to a war against starvation and farmers and ranchers were asked to continue the high rate of production.

In 1953, wheat allotments were again declared since production had exceeded the demand for several years.

In 1954 Congress passed the National Wool Act and, since Carbon County had long been a leading producer of wool in the nation, the act involved the people of Carbon County to a considerable extent.

This act provided for the support of wool and mohair prices from April 1, 1955. The support price is established at such an incentive level as the Secretary of Agriculture deems necessary to encourage an annual production of wool. The Secretary of Agriculture entered into an agreement with the American Sheep Producers Council to develop a program for advertising and promotion to improve the market for the products of the wool industry. The cost of such an agreement is deducted from the incentive payments to producers. These incentive payments are made direct to the wool producers by the county ASCS office and have ranged from 161,829 for both shorn wool and unshorn lambs to \$824,399. These payments are made on a percentage of net proceeds received by the producers, such percentage being sufficient to make up the difference between the national average price and the incentive level established by the secretary.

With the government subsidizing the sheep ranchers the question, "Why aren't sheep ranchers getting rich?" was one which was asked frequently in Carbon County. The general public was of the opinion the sheep ranchers had nothing to worry about. Nothing could be further from the truth.

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Today's sheep ranchers are faced with a multitude of problems and are finding it hard to change their ways of doing things.

Each year the government sets up an incentive price for wool per pound. That price is now 62 cents. But this does not mean a sheep rancher is going to get 62 cents per pound of wool. What it means is that after each marketing year is concluded, all of the prices paid for wool during the marketing year are figured and a national average price is computed. For a marketing year say the national average price is 45 cents. What is done next is what confuses most ranchers. Figured is the percentage necessary to bring the national average of 45 cents up to the incentive price of 62 cents. This percentage would be 37.8 per cent, which is the figure ranchers would have to keep in mind, because their incentive payments would be 37.8 per cent of what they sell their wool for per pound. In other words, if a rancher was paid 37 cents per pound for his wool by the buyer of the wool and 14 cents by the government he would receive 51 cents per pound of wool even though the national average was only 45 and the incentive price for wool per pound set by the government was 62 cents.

The marketing year is the period during which the wool is sold. At the present time, the marketing year runs from April 1, 1962 to April 1, 1963. This period represents the 1962 marketing year. The national averages are not computed, however, until June and payments to ranchers are not made until July. The 1963 marketing year will be short because beginning on January 1, 1964, the marketing year will be from April 1, 1963 to January 1, 1964.

The ASCS is now trying to encourage sheep ranchers to fence their land. It is a definite advantage for ranchers to do this for a number of reasons; the most important being that once land is fenced, sheep can wander individually instead of as a herd. Consequently not nearly as much grass is destroyed. With 2,500 or more sheep moving together in a herd grass is badly damaged. And grass is worth its weight in gold to sheep ranchers. Another advantage is that there is little or no trouble in herding sheep together when shearing times comes when land is fenced.

The problem is the cost of fencing land in Carbon County.

To encourage the rancher to fence his land the ASCS has established a program which insures the rancher who wants to fence a modest amount of money to help him to do so from the ASCS. But, this money can not be paid to a rancher until the land to be fenced is completely enclosed. Thus the rancher has to pay the initial cost of fencing his land and cannot receive any money from the ASCS until he has finished enclosing his land.

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The ASCS officials in Rawlins are trying to change the ruling, however. They are trying to get the ASCS to pay the rancher for fencing his land while the work is being done step by step.

Sheepherders have caused sheep ranchers trouble for years. First, it's hard to find good sheep herders. Second, once you find one it's hard to keep him. The average sheepherder makes the equivalent of \$400 a month. He's paid \$200 a month plus his room and board, but a few weeks by himself herding sheep by himself, he's usually ready to trade the range for town.

The fencing of their land is just one of the problems the ASCS is trying to solve for sheep ranchers. There are many more problems facing sheep ranchers and of course there are the problems of the cattle ranchers and farmers to be considered. And sometimes there are problems no one thinks the ASCS would be involved in. For example, in August, 1942, a County Agricultural Defense Committee meeting was staged to consider problems related to a scrap iron drive set for the county August 30. Attending this meeting, in addition to County Chairman Bill Tierney, who was a member of the state ASCS committee in 1937 and County Agent Nels Dahlquist were Alva Baum, and Adrian Wolfard, Encampment; L. A. "Dutch" Brazell and Carley Jebens, Baggs; Claude Shockley, Dixon; Henry Cardwell, Alcova; Tom Scott, Medicine Bow; George Lowham, fieldman from Laramie; Stanley Blackburn, Jr., Laramie; and G. H. Midthun, county supervisor.

It had long been realized that the greatest potential source of much needed scrap iron was on the farms and ranches. The scrap drive was inaugurated by sending volunteer truck drivers and workers to the various agricultural communities in the county.

Arrangements had been made through Nels Dahlquist to enlist the help of the various community leaders of the agricultural defense committee; these leaders being Adrian Wolfard, Riverside; C. F. Jebens, Baggs, Alva Baum, Encampment; Claude Shockley, Dixon; George Salisbury, Slater; Dave Helwig, Savery; A. E. Dahl, Saratoga; W. P. Fitzgerald, Saratoga; and Tom Scott, Medicine Bow.

Joe Neath was county chairman of the scrap drive. Each truck was accompanied by a member of the scrap iron committee who explained the program and made the necessary arrangements for gathering additional scrap. The drive, under this leadership was a decided success and points up the versatility of the ASCS organization.

One of the primary problems the ASCS office is now faced with involves water which has always posed a problem for Carbon County ranchers. There has never been enough of it, but with the help of the ASCS, water is being made available to Carbon County ranchers and farmers.



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The ASCS is now in the process of helping ranchers establish reservoirs, drill more wells and develop springs for range improvement and better livestock management. In addition, the ASCS is helping with the reorganization of irrigation systems to reduce erosion and provide for better control of water in Carbon County.

In addition to the program already mentioned, the Carbon County ASCS in Rawlins also administers the commodity loan program, farm storage facility loan program, conservation reserve program of the soil bank, wheat stabilization and feed grain programs, and the livestock feed program.

The present Carbon County ASCS committee is made up of Robert J. Johnson, Elk Mountain, chairman; Henry Finch, Encampment, vice-chairman, and Thomas Stratton, Rawlins, regular member.

Technical aid to the AC team is administered by the Soil Conservation Service. Those serving Carbon County in this capacity at the present time are Frank Hager, Saratoga; Dave Oberwager, Baggs; L. C. McPherren, Saratoga, and Richard Funke, Medicine Bow. These men are work unit conservationists.

Office Manager of the ASCS in Rawlins is O. I. Seaverson. Prior to his employment with the ASCS here, he was actively engaged in the ranching business. The Seaverson Livestock Company was one of the first to participate in the range conservation program at its inception, constructing a number of reservoirs.

In 1948 Seaverson was elected to the Carbon County ASCS Committee. He served on the committee for one year and in 1952 was employed as Office Manager of the ASCS. Other full-time employees now working at the office are Lila Walbye, Chief Clerk, and Elsa Joe Francis, Program Clerk.

To those living in Carbon County for the past 25 years, the progress made by the ASCS is obvious.

Carbon County is the third largest in Wyoming, covering more than five million acres, over three million of which is farmland. The county has the largest individual wheat allotment in the state and is the second largest producer of wool in the nation. Consequently the potential agricultural outlook for the county is extremely promising and from all indications, will represent a vital contribution to the wealth of the county in the future. The aim of the local ASCS office is to help the county realize this vast potential.

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CONVERSE COUNTY



The 1957 County Committee and others receiving outstanding county award - Left to right: (Seated) Kathryn Carrethers, County Office Manager; W. R. Vollman, County Committeeman; Ross Owen, Chairman, County Committee; Hugh Duncan, County Committeeman. (Standing) Grover Gallagher, Alternate County Committeeman; Gordon von Forell, Farmer Fieldman; Ralph Stahley, Soil Conservation Service Technician; Johnie K. Pickinpaugh, Performance Supervisor; Earl Reed, Alternate County Committeeman; Max Wall, County Agent and Ex-Officio Member of County Committee; Lula Lundy, Clerk; and Ann Scott, Clerk.



Left to right: (Front row) Grover Gallagher, 1963 County Committeeman; Phyllis Munkres, Program Clerk; Kathryn Carrethers, County Office Manager; and (back row) Johnie K. Pickinpaugh, Performance Supervisor; Dwayne Dickau, 1962 County Committeeman; and Richard Burks, 1963 Chairman, County Committee.

Missing from picture - Orville L. Nicholls, County Agent and Ex-Officio Member of County Committee; Earl Reed, 1963 County Committeeman; Hugh Duncan, 1962 County Committeeman; and Edward E. Chase, 1962 County Office Manager Trainee.



HISTORY OF CONVERSE ASCS COUNTY OFFICE

August 6, 1962

The United States Department of Agriculture is celebrating it's 100th anniversary this year; however, the programs under the USDA were not started in Converse County until 1933, at which time there was a surplus of wheat and the farmers were getting very little for their wheat.

Mr. H. E. Hyde, the County Agent, called a meeting of the farmers who elected W. A. Dickau to head the Wheat Control Program. This program allowed the farmer to reduce his acreage of wheat and receive payment.

In 1934, the County Commissioners released Mr. Hyde due to limitation of funds. There was a drouth and a great many people could not pay their taxes, so it became necessary to close the County Agent's Office.

A separate program designed to reduce the surplus of corn and hogs started in 1934. This was handled by the County Committee, who were elected by the farmers and ranchers.

In 1936, the Supreme Court ruled the process tax unconstitutional and this cut off the source of income for the farm programs. Then Congress passed the Agriculture Adjustment Act to handle all farm programs. All programs were put under the A.A.A. which was operated in each county by elected county and community committeemen.

In May of 1936, a meeting was called for all farmers and ranchers to see if they wished to set up the programs. At this meeting four delegates, one being Elmer Cowell, were elected to meet with the County Commissioners, Leonard Shaw, John Ingelking, and Charles Slichter, requesting they hire a County Agent. The County Commissioners refused to hire a County Agent but they offered to set up an office if Elmer Cowell would take charge of it. An office was set up on June 6, 1936 over the local Post Office. Mr. Cowell was elected Secretary and handled the paper work alone until the fall of 1936, at which time Leona Bruce was hired to help Mr. Cowell. The first elected County Committee was W. A. Dickau, Leroy Moore and W. R. Vollman.

The first program phase of the Agricultural Conservation Program was for cropland. A farmer was paid to divert land used from soil depleting crops to soil building crops. In the fall of 1936, the ACProgram was expanded to range programs to develop water for livestock. This program was for the development of stockwater dams, wells, springs and fences, so that livestock did not have to go so far to water. During these years an educational program was developed to acquaint the ranchers with what they could do on their own units.

In 1937, the program went into full swing, with 96 percent of the farmers and ranchers in the county taking part in the program. There were approximately 450 dams built with almost all of the work done by the ranchers themselves using horses, wheel tractors and scrapers. The payment for the construction of the water development practices was 100 percent of the



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cost. The specifications for the construction were developed by the County Committee. Specifications were tightened after the loss of dams, such as adding a seep trench (now known as a core trench) and cutting the banks of a draw before the dam was started. There is quite a difference in the way the dams were staked then and now. Harry McKinney was the first fieldman in this county. Mr. McKinney was a very practical man and had a good eye for finding outstanding sites for locations of dams, using an eye level instead of a transit. Extensive training was necessary in the use of transmits and not too many people in the State knew how to use them. The first engineer to instruct the fieldmen in using the transit and plane table for measuring fields was Floyd Roush, an employee of the Wyoming State ASCS Office, then located in Laramie and presently located in Casper. The eye level was still used some for about two years.

As the program grew it was necessary to hire additional help. The office was moved to the second floor of the Douglas National Bank. The USDA programs were handled by five girls and two men in the office with six or seven men measuring crops and laying out stockwater dams.

The first financing program was initiated by Elmer Cowell, of the A.A.A. office and Wes Wiker, President of the Douglas National Bank. This was on the order of the assignment program we now have.

There were sixteen range examiners brought into the county and the office force had to keep all the range examiners' notes and apply the notes to maps.

In 1937, the County Committee hired about 200 WPA men to poison Mormon crickets and grasshoppers. Provisions were provided and camps were set up in the infested areas. The cost of the poisoning was paid by the County Commissioners.

In 1938, advanced Agronomy students (posy pickers) from the University of Wyoming and the University of Colorado established the carrying capacity of livestock to each section of land in Converse County. This was used as the basis for the amount of assistance given under the ACProgram per farm. The limitations per farm came up in about 1939, when deferred grazing, allowed a rancher to defer land from April 1 to November 1, so that the land would have a chance to reseed. This practice lasted for about two or three years and dropped.

In 1938, the expenses of the office were taken over and paid by USDA. The ACProgram rocketed to the extent that there were approximately 1100 stockwater dams built under the program. There were some wells drilled, but well drillers were scarce. There were a lot of dirt contractors available. The same year, Converse and Campbell counties were selected as being the outstanding counties for practices accomplished. A two-day tour was

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arranged to cover different accomplishments in the two counties. This tour was well attended. Mr. Leroy Moore was appointed to the State Committee in 1938. Carroll Mohr replaced him on the County Committee. Elmer Cowell stated that, "A lot of good solid practical thinking came from Mr. Moore, who devoted a lot of time and effort to the ACProgram."

The ACProgram stayed on a high level of participation until World War II broke out. It was hard to get parts, equipment and supplies. As all the fields had been measured and participation dropped the personnel was decreased in number. The local ACA office had another unusual program to do in 1939. The County Commissioners set up a pest district on Boxelder for "picket pin" squirrels. The County Commissioners paid all expenses occurring in the poisoning of the squirrels. The County ACA office had to see that the supplies and personnel were there to do the job. They used poisoned oats as bait. Their transportation was horses.

In 1940, the first County Agent, Lee Wiggen, was hired. The 4-H work in the county was his biggest job.

During the war the farmers were urged to plant more wheat, so a lot of the land that had been put in soil building crops had been replowed and put into wheat. After the war this made a great amount of surplus wheat. The USDA developed new programs to try to cut down on the surplus and keep the income of the farmer and rancher up too.

The ACProgram increased in participation and practices to stop wind erosion were added, such as field stripcropping and contour furrowing of grazing land to keep the water from running off. The program on crop insurance was introduced in about 1946.

Elmer Cowell resigned in 1946 with Earl Schlichting taking his place until about 1948. On February 14, 1949, Kathryn Carrethers was hired as Administrative Assistant and in June 1953 was named County Office Manager.

The office was moved to the main street across from the Frontier Drug Store in approximately the fall of 1947. It was there until 1952, at which time it was moved to it's present location, the local Post Office, because at that time the technical service of the ACProgram was delegated to the Soil Conservation Service Technicians. It made it easier for the farmers and ranchers to have both agencies in the same building.

The old Agricultural Adjustment Administration (Triple A) was changed to the Agricultural Conservation Administration in about 1942. It was then changed to the Production and Marketing Administration (PMA) about 1945, and in about 1952 it was changed to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. In the early part of this year, it was changed to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.



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Wheat allotments were again declared by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1953. A referendum was held to see if the majority of the eligible wheat growers wanted controls on the wheat. They voted in favor, over two-thirds majority, and have voted in favor of marketing quotas each year since 1953.

From time to time additional programs have been added to be administered by the ASC County Committee; such as, the Wool Incentive Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Acreage Reserve Program, the Commodity Loan Program, the Farm Storage Facility Loan, Wheat Stabilization and Feed Grain programs, as well as the old programs of Wheat Allotment and Marketing Quotas, and the Agricultural Conservation Programs. When an emergency type program is needed the ASC County Committee administers it; such as, in the past two years they have had the Livestock Feed Program.

The present County Committee is Hugh Duncan, Chairman; Richard Burks, Vice Chairman; Dwanye Dickau, regular member; and Orville Nichols, County Agent, who is an ex-officio member by virtue of his office. The County and Community Committees are elected annually and take office on the first of January.

The personnel of the local ASCS office are Kathryn Carrethers, County Office Manager, Johnie K. Pickinpaugh, Performance Supervisor, and Marie (Peaches) Bartos, on a steady basis.

There have been a lot of changes in the past 29 years. The farms and ranches are less, but are larger in size; there are fewer farmers raising wheat; there has been a growth in the wool industry; but all in all, the County is improving and getting more soil and water conservation conscious.

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CROOK COUNTY

1963 County Committee and Personnel



Left to right: Robert Sherrard, County Office Manager; Joseph Svoboda, Chairman, County Committee; Otis Deeder, County Committeeman; Charles Chatfield, County Committeeman; W. Aubrey Long, Performance Supervisor; Evelyn Hejde, Clerk; and Minnie Williams, Chief Clerk.

Missing from the picture are Warren T. Ferrell, County Agent and Ex-Officio Member of the County Committee; James D. Wham, Chairman of the 1962 County Committee; and Edna (Justice) Sager, Clerk.



HISTORY OF CROOK COUNTY ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
August 9, 1962

Since 1962 is the 100th year of the Department of Agriculture, it has been considered appropriate to review activities of the various agencies active in Crook County. It was in May, 1862, that President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation setting up the United States Department of Agriculture. The first Commissioner of Agriculture was Isaac Newton. He took office in July of 1862. Norman J. Coleman was the Commissioner and first Secretary of Agriculture in 1889. The present Secretary of Agriculture is Orville L. Freeman.

There was very little USDA activity in Crook County until during the early 1930s. One of the first programs was known as the Corn-Hog Program.

In 1936, the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) Office was established in Sundance. The AAA was handled by a County Committee, elected by local farmers. The office was combined with the Extension Service and L. G. Landers, County Agent at that time, was secretary to the AAA Committee.

The AAA Office was located for a while in what is now the Mona Short Line Office and later was moved to the upper rooms of the Sundance State Bank.

Some of the pioneer AAA Committeemen in Crook County during the late 1930s included such as E. M. Harper, Carl Johnson, Ralph Nicholson, John P. Scott, Fred Cousins, Del Storm, Art Schelldorf, Carl Porter, H. D. Scott, Hugh Thompson and E. H. Reinecke.

During the drought year of 1936, the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) was developed as a range improvement program. Under the ACP, farmers and ranchers receive cost-sharing payments to off-set much of the cost of needed stockwater developments and cropland and range improvements.

In 1938 the first aerial photos were taken of Crook County for field measurements use in the AAA Office. Those have since been replaced with later photos, the last set having been taken in 1958.

By 1939, additional programs, such as Wheat Loans and Crop Insurance, were handled through the AAA Office. Nels Pearson worked for many years as the Loan Supervisor and also did field measuring and reservoir staking.

In 1941, as World War II was threatening, the County Defense Board was organized. It was changed in 1942 to the County War Board. Members of the Crook County War Board included C.S. Porter, AAA representative; Ted Cochrun, Forest Service; Wayne Wenburg, SCS; L. G. Landers, County Agent; A. R. Kessler, Crop and Seed Loan Office; R. D. Thomas, Federal Land Bank, and Al Nussbaum, FHA. The War Board received and processed



Crook County -

applications for farm machinery, gasoline for farm use, truck and tractor tires and other rationed farm equipment and supplies.

During the war, farmers were encouraged to plant more wheat. Following the war, huge surpluses of wheat and other grains developed and CCC stockpiles over the nation continued to grow.

In 1942 the familiar title of AAA was changed to ACA as the agency was changed to the Agricultural Conservation Administration. In 1945 it was changed again, this time to PMA for Production and Marketing Administration. Presently the agency is known as the ASCS for Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

In 1953 the Crook County (PMA) Office made loans on more varieties of grain than any other year. Most of it was on wheat, but also included were barley, oat, rye, corn and flax loans that year. The total CCC loans in 1953 were for over a half a million dollars.

During the past several years some programs have ended and new ones have been added. Presently the ASCS Office handles the Agricultural Conservation Program, Storage Facility Loans, Wheat Acreage Allotments, Wheat Stabilization Program, Feed Grains, Sugar Beet Acreages, Emergency Livestock Feeds and the Wool and Unshorn Lamb Incentive Payment Programs.

In 1961, Emergency Programs were put into effect. There were numerous stockwater developments completed under the Emergency ACP and during the winter CCC stored grains were sold at reduced prices. Crook County stockmen purchased approximately 315,000 bushels of CCC stored feed grains.

In 1961, Price Support activity was limited to only a few wheat loans. There was much more activity under some of the other programs. Under the regular and emergency ACP programs, payments for soil and water conservation practices totalled \$176,000. Soil Bank payments totalled \$65,000. Feed Grain diversion payments were \$7,800 and the Wool and Unshorn Lamb Incentive payments totalled \$167,000.

These payments of over \$400,000 aided the entire area economy as most of it was re-spent right in this area. Of the ACP work, most of the payments were for stockwater developments. There were 34 springs developed, 154 stockwater reservoirs and 85 wells drilled. Payments on these practices were for a part of the total cost of each practice and went to the contractor for labor or to suppliers for materials, etc.

Through the years, the AAA, ACA, PMA, and ASCS Offices have been administered by Committees elected by the farmers and ranchers of the county under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture. There are six ASC Committees in Crook County, each with a Community Committee elected annually. The Community Committee representatives elect a County ASC Committee, which



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acts as a Board of Directors in running the ASCS Office. The present County Committee for 1962 is James Wham, Chairman; Charles Chatfield, Vice Chairman; and Joe Svoboda, member. Presently employed by the Committee on a full time basis is Robert Sherrard, Office Manager; Minnie Williams and Edna Sager, Clerks; and W. A. 'Chub' Long, Performance and Commodity Loan Supervisor.

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FREMONT COUNTY

Personnel -- 1963 County Committee -- 1962 County Committee



First picture - left to right (standing) Mary Ellis, Program Clerk; Myrtle Campbell, Chief Clerk; Edith Cook, Program Clerk; Clarence W. Hoffman, Performance Supervisor; and (seated) Ivan J. Sackman, County Office Manager.



Second picture - left to right, Ivan Sackman, County Office Manager; Charles H. Downey, County Committeeman; Henry Haun, Chairman, County Committee; and Riley Lockard, County Committeeman.



Third picture - Lowell Lund, who has served many terms on the County Committee including 1962. Charles Downey took his place on the 1963 County Committee.

Missing from pictures - William L. Duncan, County Agent and Ex-Officio Member of the County Committee.



HISTORY OF FREMONT ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
June 8, 1962

This year marks the first centennial of the Department of Agriculture. One hundred years ago President Lincoln signed the Act of Congress establishing the Department.

For years the purpose and functions of the Department were carried on mainly in Washington, D. C., with few people aware of its activities. However, as the needs and demands of the Department were increased, agencies were created to take care of these problems. Today the Department of Agriculture is composed of several different branches, each responsible for various phases of agriculture. Some of these agencies are the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Research Service, Extension Service and others.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, ASCS, is responsible for administering a variety of the programs affecting agriculture today. Some of the principal programs administered by the agency are: Agricultural Conservation Program, Wheat Allotments and Marketing Quotas, Wool Incentive Program, Commodity Loan Program, Farm Storage Facility Loans, Conservation Reserve Program, Sugar Beet Program and the 1962 Wheat Stabilization and Feed Grain Program.

During its lifetime, the present ASCS Office has been known as the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, AAA; Production and Marketing Administration, PMA; and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, ASC.

The Fremont ASCS County Office, or old AAA, was first organized in Lander, Wyoming in 1933 when the prices of all farm commodities were disastrously low. At that time the County Agent, Tony Fellhauer was acting secretary and principal organizer of the agency. He served as secretary to the County Committee, which was composed of three elected farmers, who in turn had the responsibility of administering the various programs. Mr. Fellhauer served as secretary and manager until 1939, when he was transferred and Harry McMillan replaced him. Mr. McMillan presently owns and operates the Farmers Exchange Elevator in Riverton. During Mr. McMillan's time as secretary to the AAA from 1939 through 1944, the office had several additional jobs created by the war. During the war, in addition to their work in soil conservation, range management, and incentive payments, they were also responsible for farm machinery rationing, gasoline rationing and the rationing of all other goods used by the farmers that were under controls.

In 1939 a sub-office of the AAA was established on the mezzanine floor of the Teton Hotel in Riverton to better serve the farmers in that area. The office was also departmentalized in 1939 and each member of the



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personnel was assigned to a definite part of the program. In addition to Harry McMillan, who acted as secretary to the County Committee, the following personnel were given the following jobs: Leo Kinney, Farm and Range Supervisor in charge of performance checking under the farm program and complete charge of performance checking under the range program; Geraldine Annan, planimeter work; Dessie Svilar Bebout, treasurer; Robert Mylroie, office manager, assistant secretary, wheat loans, crop insurance and allotments; and Bertha Burkus handled correspondence.

During this time Oscar Deal served as Chairman of the County Committee George Green and Frank Laitner as regular members. This group was also ably assisted by elected community committeemen who were responsible in informing their neighbors of the various programs.

In 1944 Harry McMillan resigned his position to go into private business and William Duncan was appointed County Agent, and Leo Kinney manager of the AAA office and secretary to the County Committee. In 1945, the Lander office was closed and all operations moved to the Riverton office, located above the Hoffman Electric Store. During this time the following farmers and ranchers served on the County Committee: Harry Trembley, O. J. Shofstall, Karl Stubblefield, George Flagg, Jack Granger and Otis Williams.

From 1944 through 1948 the main activities of the agency were the ACProgram, Potato Control Program, and the Price Support Program. In 1948, Leo Kinney resigned as Office Manager and Ivan Sackman was appointed to this position. Jack McClellan was Chairman of the County Committee, along with Riley Lockard and L. R. Wenner. During the latter part of 1948 and early 50's there was a great deal of activity in the ACP, Price Supports, and also in the reorganization of the communities in the county. The community boundaries were changed in order to have as equal number of farms in each of the twelve communities as possible. During this time there were also several thousand acres of land opened to homesteading by the Bureau of Reclamation which presented new problems and challenges to the County Committee.

During the middle 50's, Claude Briddle served as Chairman of the County Committee until he was replaced by our present Chairman, Henry Haun. John Brockman also served with the Committee. Riley Lockard, who was first elected on the County Committee in 1948, has served continuously since.

Lowell Lund, from the lower Riverton Valley, is serving his third year as the third member of the County Committee. The office personnel consists of Ivan Sackman, Office Manager; Myrtle Campbell, Chief Clerk; Edith Cook, Program Specialist; Mary Ellis, Program Specialist; and Clarence W. Hoffman, Performance Supervisor.

Fremont County -

Last year over \$133,000.00 in cost-shares were made to farmers for carrying out needed soil and water conservation practices. Three-fourths of this amount was for land levelling, ditch lining and irrigation structures; the conservation of water being one of the most serious problems facing the farmers in the county. There are more small flocks of sheep in the county than in any other in the United States. Since the Wool and Lamb Incentive Program has been in effect, between 650 and 750 wool and lamb applications have been processed each year. The sugar beet acreage has increased in this county from a low of twenty-three hundred acres to nearly seven thousand acres this year.

With continued support of all agriculture agencies, the farmers of this Nation will continue to produce for the American people abundant, wholesome and cheap food.

\* \* \* \* \*



GOSHEN COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES



From L to R (seated): Amos Gillaspie, Chairman County Committee; Everett Anderson, County Committeeman; B. H. "Bernie" Trierweiler, County Agent and ex-officio member of the county committee; Robert E. "Ed" Pursley, County Office Manager; and (standing) Mildred Millsap, Program Clerk; Harvey G. Herder, Performance Supervisor; Frances Fisher, Program Clerk; Hazel Christensen, Program Clerk; E. D. "Ernie" Smith, Performance Supervisor; Katheryne Elwood, Program Clerk; and Ace E. Harvey, Grain Inspector.

Missing from the picture is Ross E. Baker, County Committeeman in both 1962 and 1963.





HISTORY OF GOSHEN ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
July 30, 1962

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

We would like to give a short history of the Goshen County ASCS and its predecessor offices as nearly as we can recall, since a lot of our records have been disposed of, which would give names of personnel and accurate dates.

As many people recall, AAA as it was called in the beginning was started during the early thirties when things were very bad, due to drought and depression.

About the first program handled by AAA was the corn-hog program. From the corn-hog program stemmed many other programs which were handled by this office up until the present time; the ACP Program, CCC Loans, Allotments and Marketing Quotas, Wheat Parity Program, during the war years the War Board Programs, Sugar Beet Program, Feed Wheat Programs and Potato Purchase Programs. In 1949 the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program was inaugurated; also, for many years this office handled Federal Crop Insurance. In 1954 the National Wool Act Program was started and later the Soil Bank Program was started in 1957. The newest programs administered by this office are the Feed Grain Program, which was started in 1961 and the Wheat Stabilization Program which is in its first year.

There have been many changes in County Agents, County Committeemen and office personnel since the office was established in the county. County Agents have been H. L. Gibson, from June 1928 to February 1939; E. M. Huckfeldt from June 1939 to June 1943; John Hammond from June 1943 to April 1946 and B. H. Trierweiler, since June 1946. Some of the people on the County Committee in years past have been Paul M. Wood; A. C. Shoemaker; A. E. Olson; W. R. Morten; C. D. Clark; George D. Duncan; Leo Arnold; John H. Helzer; Fred A. Damrow; Magnus Larson and Tommie Costopoulos. The present County Committee consists of Amos Gillaspie, Chairman; Everett Anderson, Vice Chairman; and Ross E. Baker, member.

Office personnel, whom a lot of folks will remember, are Leona Gorman Hiner; Pauline McIntosh; Vaneta Seaman Kinnan; Florence White Riley; Helen Potts Schmechel; Hazel Lenhart Haas; Ruth Jensen Patty; Dorothy Korb Heckman; Lillian Fee Graham; Margaret Hunnell; Betty Tapster Waters; Mary Redfield Beaty; Susan Ashbrook Nelson; Jane M. Oliver; Betty Warner Scheid; Georgia McClun Allen; Elsie Schaneman Hopp; Virginia Schleining Reichert; Hugh Patrick; Robert Anderson; Harry Palmer; Clayton Allen; Dean Ross (now County Office Manager in Weston County); Kendall Knowlton (now County Office Manager in Johnson County). Any names of former employees omitted was an oversight and not intentional.

Goshen County -

Present employees now employed by the ASCS are Robert E. Pursley, County Office Manager; E. D. Smith, Performance Supervisor; Ace E. Harvey, Farm Stored Grain Inspector; Frances Fisher, Program Clerk; Mildred Millsap, Program Clerk; Katheryne Elwood, Program Clerk; Hazel Christensen, Program Clerk; and the newest employee, Harvey Herder, Assistant Performance Supervisor. These are the people who carry out the programs administered by the County Committee.

Now, to give you a short resume of some of the work accomplished by the office and the effect the programs have had on Goshen County.

Many people living in the county remember the black thirties, when thousands of acres of cropland were affected by wind erosion, fences and roads were piled high with drifting top soil. In those days the common practice was to block farm. To help combat this situation the government encouraged and assisted in the establishment of strip cropping and stubble mulch farming. Hundreds of acres have been reseeded to permanent grass under the A-2 practice. With the initiation of strip crop and summer fallow practice payments under the ACProgram, a lot of this wind erosion was eliminated. A practice for stubble mulch has been paid for in more recent years, and is still carried out on quite a few farms in the county. The strip crop practice has proved very successful and practically all dry land crop land in the county is strip farmed.

For the rancher during the drought years there was a practice for deferred grazing. This deferred a pasture for a certain length of time and let the grass get reseeded before grazing would be permitted. By rotating pastures under the deferred grazing program many ranchers saved valuable grass for livestock, thus preventing wind and water erosion. There has been a payment for pasture seeding to a permanent grass and legume cover on range land. This practice helped finance the rancher in establishing a cover on range land, when it is badly needed and especially after the drought years. Hundred of miles of fences have been built for better distribution of livestock.

The practice payment made for drilling livestock wells has also helped finance ranchers to drill wells needed to distribute livestock for better range management, conserve the grass cover and prevent over grazing of pastures. We have assisted farmers and ranchers in drilling more than 500 wells in Goshen County since the program was first started.

We believe the practices most used and needed on irrigated farms have been leveling and concrete ditch lining. When the programs first started for land leveling the county office would do necessary staking; in 1943 the North Platte Soil Conservation District was established and since that time all technical phases of these practices have been done by the SCS. The South Goshen District was established in 1947 or 1948



Goshen County -

and the Lingle-Ft. Laramie District was established in 1946.

Just to give you an idea of the amount of work performed in these practices, the linear feet of concrete ditch lining would extend approximately from Torrington, Wyoming to Riverton, Wyoming and the acreage leveled would be approximately 24,600 acres. This would equal 154 farms, 160 acres in size.

We will not be able to give a history on all practices carried out, but we felt the information we have given would be of interest. These are the practices carried out to the greatest extent in Goshen County.

Our loan programs have ranged from small to large. The largest loan program we ever had in Goshen County was in 1949 when we had a total of 1359 loans for a total amount loaned of \$3,518,762.00.

The sugar beet acreage planted in the county remains about the same each year. In 1961 we made the largest Government payment we have made to date, for a total of over \$600,000.00. This payment was made on 373 beet applications and growers.

Since the beginning of the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program in 1949, we have made a total of 179 loans, for a total bushel capacity of 1,098,378 bushels. Total amount loaned \$297,827.00. This additional storage has enabled farmers to store grain on the farm, and in some cases secure a better market price. It also gives farmers a chance to reseal grain, when they have sufficient storage to do so.

At the present time Goshen County has a wheat acreage allotment of 58,613.0 acres.

The newer farm programs, the Feed Grain Program and the Wheat Stabilization Program have had good participation. In 1961 there was a total of 217 applications and in 1962 a total of 300 applications under the Feed Grain Program. The 1962 Wheat Stabilization Program had 323 applicants, 1962 was the first year for this program.

Now that we have told you who we are and part of what we are doing, we would like to tell you where we have been and where we are. Our offices were first located in the Post Office Building, and due to expansion of programs we had to move to larger quarters. Our first move was to the Old Sawyer Building on Main Street, now occupied by the Ace Stores. We moved from there to the Eaton Building, just back of the Citizens National Bank. These places were handy to all business places and we hated to move, but the U. S. Department of Agriculture felt that if all Government agencies were located in one location it would provide better service to farmers and ranchers, so we moved again. This time to the basement of the IOOF Hall. We were there several years and in

Goshen County -

July 1961 we moved again, this time to a new building, just west of the Safeway Store, on West 27th Avenue. This building is air conditioned and is real cool in the summer and warm in the winter. It was really built especially for us. The agencies occupying the building are: ASCS, SCS, FHA, Federal Crop Insurance Office, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Many changes have taken place since the inauguration of ASCS programs. With the advent of modern machinery and the increased technology of farming, farms and ranches have become larger. The wheat acreage allotment has decreased from 60,062 acres in 1939 to 58,613 acres in 1963. Sugar beet acreage has remained about the same, approximately 17,000 acres; corn acreage has increased from a very small acreage to over 21,000 acres. Potato acres have declined, bean acres have increased from very small acreage to over 18,000. Yields per acre have increased. Ranchers have improved the quality of their livestock. The farm people through their initiative and efficiency are producing and providing each of us with abundant foods at fair prices.

\* \* \* \* \*



HOT SPRINGS COUNTY

1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE



Left to right: Dare McCumber, Chairman, County Committee; David Duncan, County Office Manager; Willard J. Bader, County Committeeman; and John Rankine, County Committeeman.

OFFICE PERSONNEL



David Duncan, County Office Manager; and Peggy J. Burnap, Chief Clerk.

Missing from the pictures: D. H. Tippets, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee; Frank J. Rhodes, County Committeeman in 1962; and Shirley Jean Blakesley, Chief Clerk in 1962.



HISTORY OF HOT SPRINGS ASCS COUNTY OFFICE

August 30, 1962

Since 1962 is the one hundredth anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture, it seems fitting to give as much history as possible of events and persons involved in the Hot Springs ASCS County Office during the years it has been in existence.

Time has turned many pages of changes in personnel which make it impossible to give a complete history of our county office. From what information we can gain, our office was started about 1936, under the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), and was in conjunction with the County Extension Program. Until November of 1959, when we moved to our present location, the county office was located in the County Court House and during the more recent years, on the top floor. The new location has contributed greatly to the increase in participation of programs offered by our office.

Among the earlier committeemen who stand out in the memory of many is the late George Collins. Mr. Collins can be given credit for much of the program development during the early days of our office. He served for many years with great interest, judgement and perseverance.

More recent committeemen who deserve special mention for long and outstanding service are Merrill Brown and John Rankine.

Other committeemen who have served at various times are: Stewart Gloyd, Ramul Dvarishkis, Gus Benson, Ralph Campbell, I. N. (Newt) Harvey, James Thronburg and Stanford Smith.

David Duncan has been employed as County Office Manager since March 1, 1957. Preceding Mr. Duncan in this capacity have been H. A. Realing, Marion Andreen, Howard Lenz, and Terrill Gibbons.

Office fieldmen who have served were Roy Collins, Wallace Shaffer, and Keith Davis.

Clerks who have been employed by the county office are Dorothy Jones, Beverly Manning, Dolores Johnson, Roberta Kyser, and the present clerk, Shirley Jean Blakesley.

Farmer Fieldmen serving our county have been Hubert Hart, Tom Rennard, and our present Fieldman, Jack Loveland.

Outstanding in the programs administered by Hot Springs County have been the ACProgram, the Emergency Feed Program of 1954 through 1957, and the Drouth Feed Program of 1960-1961. Much of the success of the Drouth

Hot Springs County -

Feed Program can be attributed to the good judgement of the County Committee - Merrill Brown, John Rankine, and Stanford Smith, and to the many hours of hard and accurate work of our clerk, Roberta Kyser.

Each year our ACProgram increases in participation from farmers and ranchers. We feel that much of our success in this program in recent years has been due to the cooperation and relationship we have received from the Soil Conservation Service in the technical part of the work done.

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JOHNSON COUNTY

1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES



Left to right: Fred Hepp, County Committeeman; Martha Lowther, Chief Clerk; W. Kendall Knowlton, County Office Manager; Margaret Bernice Smith, Clerk; Konrad Leis, County Committeeman; and Peter Meike, Chairman, County Committee.

Missing from the picture are Robert E. Quade, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee; John Kumor was on the 1962 County Committee and was replaced by Konrad Leis, on the 1963 County Committee.



HISTORY OF JOHNSON ASCS COUNTY OFFICE

December 20, 1962

1936 - Legislation provided for County Agricultural Offices and elected committeemen to handle farm programs that dealt directly with the farmer. This legislation also provided for a Conservation Program to conserve the Nation's soil and water.

The Agricultural Conservation Program handled conservation practices for cropland and in certain western States, including Wyoming, a Range Conservation Program was set up to handle conservation practices on rangeland.

The Range Conservation Program was, of course, the most applicable in Johnson County and many stockwater dams were constructed in the first years of the program.

The first County Committee under the AAA Program consisted of T. H. Adamson, E. M. Twing and Robert Watt. Pete Jensen, County Agricultural Agent, was Secretary for the Committee and the AAA office was located upstairs in the Post Office.

1937 - The administration decided that since most of the farm programs in effect involved acreage payments, complete farm maps should be made so that acreages would not have to be measured each year.

Frank Gatchell, Clyde Wood and George Gibbs were hired to survey the cropland and make maps for future use in determining acreage.

1938 - Aerial photographs were taken of the more heavily farmed area around Buffalo and in later years the entire county was photographed and aerial photos are now used almost exclusively for acreage measurement as well as locating conservation practices.

County Committees have been elected each year to administer the farm programs and many of these committeemen have served for a number of years.

T. H. Adamson	-	1936, 1939-41	--	four years.
William Bailey	-	1940-1948	--	nine years.
Glen L. Carr	-	1937-1941	--	five years.
Elmer Gosney	-	1956-1957	--	two years.
Fred Hepp	-	1958-1962	--	five years.
Charles Jarrard	-	1951-1955	--	five years
John Kumor	-	1946-1962	--	seventeen years.
Frank Long	-	1939	--	one year.
Harold Meike	-	1937-1938	--	two years.
Peter Meike	-	1942-1945, 1949-1962	--	eighteen years
E. M. Twing	-	1936	--	one year.
Robert Watt	-	1936-1938	--	three years.
Marvin Young	-	1942-1950	--	nine years.

Johnson County -

The following persons have been employed in the county office, either as clerks or field employees -

Gene Abernatha	Ted McNeese
Betty Balden Griffith	Beverly Mikesell Condit
Pete Christensen	Virginia Milnichek
Gerald Castel	Eleanor Ploesser Stephens
Marianna Duncan	Virginia Price (Sec'y.)
Willard Eder	Beverly Reid (Sec'y.)
Frank Gatchell	Walter Rinker
George Gibbs (Sec'y.)	Claire Robinson (1st County Office Manager)
Ethel Graham	Keith Ruby
Viola Harboe (Sec'y.)	Rebecca Skiles Harris
Fred Hart	Margaret Smith
Elvie Henderson Haeefe	Joan Stone (Sec'y.)
Marjorie Hughes Holt	T. E. Straley
Lorainne Jewell	Kenneth Twing
Kay Johnson	Viola Ward
Kendall Knowlton (3rd County Office Manager)	Mary Washut O'Leary
Marian Kumor	Clyde Wood
Martha Lowther	Alice Yoder
Tobin Ann Lucas	Elgin Young
John Marton (2nd County Office Manager)	William Young
Verl Matteson	Helen Zahradnicek
John McNeese	Eugene Zimmerman

Frank Gatchell has the longest length of service in the Johnson County Office. Frank mapped cropland in 1937 and in 1938 started staking dams and checking performance and, except for parts of two years, worked until 1952.

The name of the County Agricultural Office has changed several times. It was first known as the AAA - Agricultural Adjustment Act Office. Later it was known as the ACA - Agricultural Conservation Association Office. August, 1945 the name was changed to PMA - Production and Marketing Administration. In 1954 it was changed to ASC - Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, and at the present it is the ASCS - Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office.

In the early years of the office the County Agent was the Secretary of the Association, and the offices were housed together.

About 1944 the workload had grown to the extent that the offices were separated and the County Committee selected one of their clerks as Secretary.



Johnson County -

The office was moved downtown to the building where the Boggs Cleaning Shop is now located. It was later moved to the Villnave Building next to where the Suzanne Shop has been. After the Land Office was moved from Buffalo, the office moved back to the Post Office, where it is located at the present time.

In the early years of the Conservation Program, the development of stockwater was the major practice. For example, for the four years, 1936 through 1939, 734 payees earned \$93,803 for performing practices on cropland. During the same four-year period 512 payees earned \$170,462 for performing practices under the Range Conservation Program. During this four-year period 550 stockwater dams were constructed, containing 954,227 cubic yards of dirt. 57 wells were drilled and 124 springs developed.

In these early years many of the reservoirs were built with horses. Fred and Ralph Hepp got their start in the contracting business building reservoirs with horse drawn fresnoes.

In 1940 the ACP and the Range Conservation Program were combined and since then all the conservation practices have been handled under the ACP - Agricultural Conservation Program.

In 1940 the following programs were handled by the county office:

- Agricultural Conservation Program
- Wheat Parity Program
- Wheat Loan Program
- Wheat Crop Insurance Program
- Sugar Beet Program

The agricultural picture in Johnson County has changed immensely in the last twenty-five years.

In 1936 there were quite a few farmers still hanging on in the Nine Mile Area, hoping that weather conditions would change and grain farming would be practical.

The 1939 census listed 505 farms and ranches in Johnson County and the 1959 census shows 252 farms, or a 50 percent reduction in numbers.

In 1939 Johnson County harvested 856 acres of sugar beets while now we have but one grower with about 100 acres.

In 1940 there were 170 farms having Wheat Allotments - in 1963 there are 66 Wheat Allotment farms

Johnson County -

During the war years the County Committee served on various War Boards and Special Service Committees, helping to ration farm machinery, building needs and setting goals for increased farm production. After the war farmers were asked to keep producing at a high level to feed a starving world. It wasn't until 1954 that the wheat surplus got back to the place where wheat allotments again went into effect.

In 1961 the ASCS Office handled an emergency stockwater and emergency livestock feed program.

Present programs handled by the county office are:

- Agricultural Conservation Program
- Wheat Allotment Program
- Wheat Stabilization Program
- Feed Grain Program
- Soil Bank Program
- Commodity Loan Program
- Wool Incentive Payments
- Sugar Beet Program
- Farm Facility Loans

Present Committee members are: Peter Meike, Chairman; John Kumor, Vice Chairman; Fred Hepp, regular member.

The county office force consists of Kendall Knowlton, County Office Manager; Martha Lowther, Chief Clerk; and Margaret Smith, Program Clerk.

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LARAMIE COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES



Left to right: Ronald L. Cameron, Assistant Performance Supervisor; Jane M. Oakley, Program Clerk; Howard S. Christensen, County Committeeman; Marvin D. Anderson, Chairman County Committee; Myles H. Gardner, County Committeeman; Florence E. Starrett, Chief Clerk; Harmon "Ben" Faircloth, Performance Supervisor; and Wallace A. Judy, County Office Manager.

Missing from picture is Wilbur T. Brettell, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee.





HISTORY OF LARAMIE ASCS COUNTY OFFICE

August 3, 1962

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has been in existence over one hundred years and it is interesting to review briefly the origin and the development of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program in Laramie County, Wyoming, along with the many related programs which have been introduced and those in existence at the present time.

Approximately September 1, 1933, the Wyoming Eagle brought to the attention of the people of this area that the U. S. Department of Agriculture would hold a meeting in the Old Main Building at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, to discuss the matter of wheat prices and possible production controls. There was at the time a surplus of wheat and the market was disastrously low. Wheat was yielding approximately 26 bushels to the acre with 17 percent protein, but bringing a price of only 11 to 26 cents a bushel. This meeting was the first of its kind in the Nation and it lasted three days. The wheat control program was organized and it was determined that State and county committees to administer the program were to be elected by the farmers. The wheat program provided that farmers could voluntarily sign up to reduce their wheat acreage and would be entitled to draw payments for such compliance.

Elston Johnson, then Laramie County Agricultural Extension Agent, resigned as soon as he learned of the new committee system. George N. Phillips, a Laramie County farmer who had attended the wheat meeting at Laramie, was asked by Mr. Bowman of the Wyoming Extension Service to be acting County Agent and help organize the community and county committees. The first County Committee consisted of Phil Weber of Burns, George Romsa of Albin, and George N. Phillips of Pine Bluffs. Mr. Llewellyn was then appointed Agricultural Agent and acted as secretary to the County Committee. Mrs. Edna White was hired as chief clerk.

In 1934, in addition to the wheat control program, the corn-hog program was inaugurated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in an attempt to reduce surpluses in corn and hogs. The corn-hog program, however, had little application in this county as drought conditions did not exist here.

In 1936 Congress passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act to handle all farm programs and emergencies. This Act was commonly referred to as the "Triple A" and was operated under the elected Community and County Committees. Acreages and allotments up to 1944 were used as a device for adjusting the production of soil-depleting crops and to encourage soil-conserving and soil-building practices. National acreage and allotments were determined individually for the soil-depleting crops. The national acreage allotments were apportioned among states and counties and individual farms. Compliance with the allotments was purely voluntary by the individual producers. If the producer complied with the allotment

## Laramie County -

established for his farm, he became a cooperator and was entitled to adjustment payments.

In addition to the Wheat Allotment Program, the Agricultural Conservation Program came into being in 1936. This was a soil-building, crop- and range-improvement program. This program included expanding the acreage of soil-conserving crops such as grasses and legumes and controlling erosion by contour cultivation, terracing, strip cropping, and conditioning the soil by application of fertilizer.

By 1937, due to the expansion of agricultural programs under the Triple A, the office force concerned with these programs had increased in size and consisted of the following people: Mr. Whaley, field supervisor; Edna White, chief clerk; Florence Starrett, clerk; and Harold McWilliams, range supervisor.

In 1939, Louis Schilt was appointed County Agent. In this same year the Wheat-Loan Program and Federal Crop Insurance Program were put into effect by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the purpose of supporting prices of agricultural commodities within a range of 60 to 90 percent; with the Federal Crop Insurance as a further protection to the farmers from loss due to weather elements.

The agencies of the U. S. Department of Agriculture were organized into a defense board in 1941 as a result of World War II. This board had charge of authorizing distribution of machinery, tires, fuel, and other rationed commodities. The board also set food goals, helped find farm labor, and stimulated the buying of bonds. The chairman of the first defense board was Phil Weber.

During the war, marketing quotas were lifted on wheat and farmers were urged to deliver stored wheat to the government. As a result of the lifting of marketing quotas and allotments, farmers were encouraged to put into cultivation large areas of marginal land. This was the main contributing factor which resulted in our present-day surpluses in wheat.

In 1946 W. T. Brettel came to Laramie County to replace Louie Schilt, who was appointed Director of County Agents at the Extension Office at the University of Wyoming. Florence Starrett was appointed secretary to the County Committee.

About September of 1947 the Triple A was separated from the Extension Service, and moved to 1902 Thomes, Read Block. The personnel at that time consisted of Florence Starrett, secretary; Ray Kane, field supervisor; Florence Peterson, clerk. Ira Berryman of Albin was chairman of the County Committee. In 1950, while still in office, Mr. Berryman had a heart attack and died. Myles Gardner of Pine Bluffs then became chairman of the County Committee. He served for four years in that capacity.



Laramie County -

In September of 1951 the Secretary of Agriculture requested that a family farm-policy review be made to obtain the view of the farmers on what the family farms and ranches would like to have in the way of a farm program, and whether or not the right setup was in existence. Eight of these meetings were held throughout the county and reports were written up and forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The conclusion was reached that the PMA Program be retained in all its phases, with the exception of practice payments made to farmers. There was divided opinion as to the need of subsidies and support prices, but the consensus of opinion was that the subsidies and support prices should be retained.

It was felt that the procedure for setting acreage allotments be changed to make them more favorable to small producers.

About the year 1954 the Agriculture Department returned to a program of acreage allotments in an attempt to reduce the ever-increasing surplus of wheat. A wheat-marketing quota referendum was held in this same year. Favorable votes of at least two-thirds of the farmers were required in order for the marketing quota to become operative. The marketing quota was voted in and has been in existence ever since.

In September of 1953 Mr. Gardner resigned as chairman of the County Committee and Henry Weber of Burns became chairman. A slight change was made in the administration of the county office. A secretary was no longer appointed by the County Committee to be in charge of the office. An Office Manager was appointed under the direction of the County Committee. Florence Starrett was appointed Office Manager and acted in that capacity until October of 1958, when Wallace Judy was appointed Manager. Florence Starrett was appointed chief clerk.

In the fall of 1957 Marvin Anderson was elected chairman of the County Committee.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration was changed to the Agricultural Conservation Administration in 1942; about 1945 it was changed to the Production Marketing Administration (PMA), and in 1952 was changed to the Agricultural Stabilization Committee; in 1962 to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

At the present time the following programs are administered under the ASCS Office: Agricultural Conservation Program, Commodity Loan Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Emergency Drought and Livestock Feed Program, Farm Storage Facility Loan Program, Feed Grain Program, Marketing Quota Program, Wheat Stabilization Program and Wool Incentive Program.

## Laramie County -

The present ASC Committee of Laramie County consists of Marvin Anderson, chairman; Howard Christensen, vice-chairman; and Myles Gardner, member.

The present office personnel consists of Wallace Judy, Office Manager; Florence Starrett, chief clerk; Ben Faircloth, field supervisor; Ronald Cameron, assistant field supervisor, and Jane Oakley, clerk.

Since 1947 the office of the ASCS has been in the Read Block, 1902 Thomes Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

George N. Phillips, member of the first County Committee, was contacted for information relative to the history of the Laramie County ASCS Office. Mr. Phillips' letter, which follows, was used in the preparation of the history:

### History of the Start of the Old Triple A

On about September 1, 1933, I read a news item in the Wyoming Eagle about a meeting to be held at Old Main in Laramie, Wyoming, to discuss the matter of wheat prices and possible production controls. On the morning of September 3 I came to Pine Bluffs. I was living on the farm six miles north of Pine Bluffs; went over to a gas station on the highway here, having decided to hitchhike a ride to Laramie.

In just a few minutes a man driving a new Buick coupe stopped to get some gas, asking how far it was to Laramie. I asked him if I could ride along and he then asked what I was going to Laramie for. I told him to attend that wheat meeting. He told me he was the soil representative from the Ag College at Lincoln, Nebraska and was happy to have me along with him. That was about the fastest trip I ever made to Laramie -- he thought he was hours late for the start of the meeting. We got there about ten a.m. The meeting was about to start.

I introduced him to Red Willis and Mr. Bowman and we got settled for a three-day conference. We found the meeting to be the first of its kind in our Nation. We had an interesting three-day conference and decided to organize State and County Committees. Elton Johnson was then our Laramie County Agent. Mr. Bowman asked me to be Acting County Agent, as Mr. Johnson resigned as soon as he found out about the committee organization - he had been planning to resign a little later. It was about six weeks before Charlie Llewelyn came to Cheyenne as County Agent. I went ahead with organizing the Community and County Committees.

As I remember it, Phil Weber from Burns, George Romsa from Albin and I were chosen the first County Committeemen. I also found that I was the only man in these United States to attend that meeting, actually owning wheat still standing in the field. I had a total of eleven hundred acres, had harvested 3000 bushels; it yielded about 26 bushels an acre and was No. 1 dark, hard and weighed 63 pounds to the bushel and had 17 percent

Laramie County -

protein. I sold that 3000 bushels at the Lindberg elevator for 11 cents a bushel. I had to scoop it into his feed grinding bin on top of that. I finished harvesting after that and got a high of 26 cents a bushel for the last of it. It was about September 20 when I finished combining and the wheat still weighed 61 pounds to the bushel.

If I had the time I could dig out a lot more information. I am again walking with crutches so I can't get upstairs to your office -- have a sprained knee. Anyway, this should do. Take out what isn't pertinent.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Phillips

\* \* \* \* \*





LINCOLN COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND PERSONNEL



L to R (standing): Murray M. Wilkes, County Office Manager; Reuben Johnson, County Committeeman; William Buckley, Chairman County Committee; Frank Bateman, County Committeeman; and Blanche Wray, Administrative Clerk. (Seated) Roland Johns, Performance Supervisor; Boyd W. Wilkes, Chief Clerk; and Rex L. Jensen, Head Program Clerk.

Missing from the picture - Don L. Chadwick, 1962 County Agent and ex-officio member of the 1962 County Committee; and Burton Bagley, 1963 County Agent and ex-officio member of the 1963 County Committee.



HISTORY OF LINCOLN ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
October 18, 1962

At the time this agricultural agency began it was in connection with the Extension Service, under the name of Triple A (AAA) and functioned under the direction of an elected County Committee, with the Extension Agent acting as secretary and treasurer to the County Committee.

Mr. John A. Linford, Afton, Wyoming was the first chairman elected to serve this county. Some committee members who served with him were: L. I. Jenkins of Freedom, Wyoming and E. J. Ineck of Cokeville, Wyoming, with S. B. Murray, Extension Agent. This committee served for over one year, after which E. Francis Winters began his term as County Extension Agent. According to information received visiting with individuals connected with the program over the years and from available records, other County Committee chairmen were as follows:

- No. 2 - R. R. Dana - Thayne, Wyoming
- No. 3 - Ralph Nelson - Kemmerer, Wyoming
- No. 4 - Henry Redford - Afton, Wyoming
- No. 5 - William Buckley - Cokeville, Wyoming

Committee members serving with the above chairmen were:

- Parley Anderson - Border, Wyoming
- George Thompson - Etna, Wyoming
- Reuben Johnson - Smoot, Wyoming
- Frank H. Bateman - Bedford, Wyoming
- Leonard Buck - Kemmerer, Wyoming
- Ernest Wolfley - Bedford, Wyoming
- Buhl Wakeman - Thayne, Wyoming
- (Alternate members of the County Committee have not been shown in listing)

Due to lack of dates and definite records in years past, we have not attempted to establish periods of time served by the different committees and the periodic changes in committees as they took place. However, our present County Committee is:

- William Buckley - chairman
- Reuben Johnson - vice-chairman
- Frank H. Bateman - regular member
- Calvin Barnes - first alternate
- Russell Thornock - second alternate
- Burton Bagley - ex-officio member

In 1953, on July 1, the office manager type of county office operation was established. The County Committee, at that time, consisted of Henry Redford, chairman; William Buckley, vice-chairman; and Ernest Wolfley,



Lincoln County -

regular member. This committee appointed Murray M. Wilkes to act as Office Manager, in which position he has served since. There were at that time three full-time employees, including the Manager. Two employees were at the Afton office and one employee was assigned full-time at the Kemmerer office. The Kemmerer office served the Third and Fourth Communities, Cokeville and Kemmerer areas, with the Agricultural Conservation Program. Approximately 140 operators lived in these two communities. The Afton office served First and Second Communities, of more than 500 operators, with the Agricultural Conservation Program and all other programs for the entire county were administered through the Afton office.

The County Committee and the State Farmer Fieldman determined more efficient use could be made of employees and service just as effectively if all employees were assigned headquarters at the Afton office, with the Kemmerer office being opened one day each week for contacts from those operators in that area. This procedure has been followed since that time.

The Lincoln County PMA Office, as it was called at that time, was located in the upstairs of the Post Office Building, in what used to be a hospital. The space used consisted of six small rooms, very poorly arranged and extremely inconvenient. In 1957, through the efforts of Mr. R. J. Rymill, who was State Administrative Officer, and other State office personnel, along with our County Committee, we acquired our present office on the street floor next to the Post Office, known as the Papworth and Cranney Building. We now have very good space of just over 1900 square feet and have periodically been afforded some new furniture and equipment which was badly needed and very much appreciated. We now have five full-time employees in our county and are servicing our operators in 1962 with the following programs: Agricultural Conservation Program, Wheat Allotment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wheat Stabilization, 1962 Feed Grain, Livestock Feed, Commodity Loans, Storage Facility Loans, Shorn Wool and Unshorn Lamb Incentive Payment Programs.

The County Committees have appreciated participation of operators in the community elections each year. In the 1962 election there was an average of 42.1 percent of operators voted. Some years have been somewhat higher than this, but we feel this is still a good vote.

Good cooperation has been had from Community Committeemen in regard to development meetings and meetings for setting up productivity indexes on new programs recently established. However, the County Committee feels that the elected Community Committees should have more budget allocation for their use, giving them an opportunity for closer activity and relations with all programs. Excellent cooperation has been had in this county with

Lincoln County -

the delegates to the county convention, in electing our County Committee from year to year.

The County Committee and county office feel they have very good working relations with the Soil Conservation Service at the county level and much has been accomplished with their support and technical assistance, since the assigned responsibilities were made for the two agencies to work together on given practices.

The Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, and others invited, have all contributed to Development meetings, with suggestions toward improved practices and public relations under agriculture programs.

For the past two or three years, inter-agency meetings have been held about once a month through the winter, between county office personnel for all the government agencies and the Rural Electrification Administration. Officers are elected each year and the meetings are usually held in the form of a luncheon at noon, with one of the agencies assigned to present and explain to the group the operation and purpose of their programs and responsibility for such.

Complete records of program participation in Lincoln County are not available; however, those records checked show from 1936 through 1961, including the Wheat Stabilization and 1962 Feed Grain payments for 1962, \$4,773,817.00 has been disbursed in the following manner:

Cost shares, acreage retirement and incentive payments	\$4,421,845
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Included in the cost share on the ACProgram is \$82,373.07 for practices completed in 1961 under the Emergency AC ACProgram. These practices included concrete ditch lining, permanent pipe for sprinkler systems and irrigation wells. Two of these projects were large pooling agreements.

Commodity loans disbursed through ASCS Office	\$ 272,405
179 Farm Storage Facility loans disbursed	
in amount of	<u>79,567</u>
Total	\$ 351,972

Under the direction of the County Committee serving in recent years, the ACProgram is seeing an increase in the more permanent or longer life conservation practices completed.

Lincoln County -

There have been other disaster programs carried out in previous years, but there is very little information available concerning them. For the Livestock Feed Program available for 1960-1961 and 1961-1962, due to drouth and crop failures, records show in 1960-1961 year the County Committee received 604 applications for feed grain from 397 operators for which 18,503,119 pounds of grain was approved. From these approvals the county office issued 2,295 delivery orders for a total of 12,188,900 pounds of grain. This feed was delivered to eligible operators by three warehouses in Lincoln County, Wyoming and one warehouse in Bear Lake County, Idaho. By the request of our Wyoming State ASCS Office, and through arrangements made with the Idaho State Office and Mr. Gene Raymond out of Washington, the County Committee and county office handled the ordering and receiving of feed grain into these warehouses for Caribou and Bonneville Counties in Idaho and for Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln Counties in Wyoming. Lincoln County Office also handled orders for Idaho operators in taking delivery of feed grain from the above warehousemen.

For the 1961-1962 Emergency Livestock Feed Program year, the County Committee approved 334 applications for which 1,714 delivery orders were issued in the amount of 16,191,950 pounds of feed grain. The county office was happy to extend the same service as for the previous year to the Sweetwater and Uinta Counties in Wyoming.

The County Committee feels the programs administered by them have in the past and are still contributing a great deal toward the conservation needs and economy of this county.

\* \* \* \* \*



NATRONA COUNTY

1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND PERSONNEL



L to R (seated): M. F. Gowin, County Committeeman; Merl Rissler, County Committeeman; and Walter Schlager, Chairman County Committee. (Standing) Gloria Anderson, Chief Clerk; Tom Rennard, County Office Manager; and Valgene Waugh, Clerk.

Missing from picture are Donald Kaufman, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee, and Robert V. Bressler, 1962 Chairman of the County Committee replaced by Walter Schlager on the 1963 Committee.





HISTORY OF NATRONA ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
September 18, 1963

What is now the ASCS in Natrona County had its beginning in the State in 1935 under what was named the Corn-Hog and Wheat Program. This program did not apply in Natrona County because only a small amount of these commodities were produced in the county. This program was declared unconstitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court. Congress enacted new legislation which established the Agricultural Adjustment Agency. This agency and its successors have been assigned many programs to administer.

September 9, 1936 was the beginning date for farmer-rancher participation in a program under the administration of the A.A.A. The first participation was in the crop and range parts of the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). The program has had a favorable reception. There was some hesitancy on the part of ranchers at the beginning because of fear of being limited in the number of livestock they could run. This may have been occasioned by earnings under the program being based on the number of animal units of grazing capacity of each unit. Range grazing capacity determinations, made by personnel under the supervision of the Forest Service, showed an average of 34.6 acres of grazing land was needed to carry an animal unit a year.

The administration of the A.A.A. was carried out by committeemen. The committee system originated during the earlier Corn-Hog and Wheat Program. Each county was divided into communities, with an elected community committee of three regular members and two alternates. The duties of the community committeemen were to explain the program to other farmers and ranchers, assist or take sign-up, and advise the county committee. The first community committees were organized in 1937 in Natrona County. There were five communities that year. The boundaries of these first five communities were changed, resulting in there being six communities.

Another revision in community boundaries was made after a few years resulting in there being seven. These seven communities have since been changed back to five. The last change was made because of administrative costs and because of a loss of farm units.

The community committeemen are elected by their neighbors who are farmers and ranchers in the community. The nominee receiving the largest number of votes is declared chairman. The chairman of each of the community committees meets each year at a county convention to elect a county committee. The members of the first county committee elected were:

George Snodgrass, President  
J. H. Rissler, Vice-President  
J. J. Schaffer, Member  
Adele Shields, Treasurer  
W. T. Kirk, Secretary, County Agent

The office work in connection with the program was under the supervision

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of the County Agricultural Agent, who is an ex-officio member of the county committee. The A.A.A. was separated from the County Agent's Office on December 9, 1943 and has been by itself since. County Agents who have served as ex-officio members of the county committee have been:

William Kirk  
Norman French  
John Schultz  
Berger Strand  
Don Kaufman

The county committees have been responsible for the operation of the various programs that were a part of A.A.A. or successor agencies. They have approved requests for assistance under the ACP, established individual wheat allotments, determined that conservation practices were performed to meet required specifications and, until the time that county office managers were designated, were responsible for the operation of the county office.

The county committees have looked to the appointed State committeemen and State Office program specialists for advice and guidance in program administration.

A complete list of names of people serving as county and community committeemen since the beginning of A.A.A. is not available, but from the records available one finds that 102 people have had a hand in the administration of county programs. Of this number 29 have served on the county committee during the period 1936 through 1963.

People serving on the county committee have been elected to serve a one-year term and many have been re-elected and served several terms. Seven people have served four or more terms on the county committee. They are

George Sun	A. J. Carlson
M. F. Rochelle	Gordon Sanford
C. P. Engberg	Merl Rissler
Robert C. Smith	

One individual, J. H. Rissler, served 12 years. It is evident that the farmers and ranchers have elected those individuals who would best represent them in the administration of county programs. Those serving on the county committee have been people who were well acquainted with the people in the county and familiar with the agricultural and soil and water conservation problems of each individual operating unit.

Serving as a committeeman has aroused the interest of a number of individuals in the community, county and State government to the extent they became candidates for county and State offices. Seven former



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county committeemen - Gordon Sanford, J. H. Rissler, Joe M. Donlin, George Snodgrass, Percy E. Jones, M. F. Rochelle, and John J. Tobin, have run for such public office.

The election to the office of committeeman is an honor bestowed upon the elected individual by his neighbors who elected him. The office has served as a stepping stone to other offices and positions. The chairman of the first county committee, George Snodgrass, has held the office of vice president in the Wyoming Stock Growers Association.

Other county committeemen who are or have been members of the Stock Growers Association are William Brewer, Daniel Miller, Jonce Eccles, and James C. Popple.

Joe M. Donlin holds office in the National Wool Growers Association.

The A.A.A. program came into being during the time of a National depression and a drouth period that covered an extensive area of the West and Great Plains. The program was, in part, brought about to correct problems arising from World War I, when many veterans homesteaded and started farming. The program was set up to make adjustments in the use of land and to give parity of income to agriculture.

The annual report of the County Agent for 1937 depicted the agricultural situation in Natrona County at that time. There were 30,527 head of beef cattle; 379,091 head of sheep; 1,204 head of dairy cattle; 418 head of horses and 540 head of hogs. There were 25,699 acres of cropland. The cropland was, in part, irrigated hay meadows and the other was dryland cropland. The dryland cropland had been plowed out of sod by homesteaders who settled in the county after World War I. The dryland cropland has been seeded to crested wheatgrass with program help and is now mostly used for grazing of livestock. The Census for 1935 listed 416 individual farm and ranch units.

The Agricultural Adjustment Agency went out of existence, in name only, in 1941 when the name was changed to War Food Administration. There have been other changes since, in name only, such as to Production & Marketing Administration and now Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service.

The Agency has had many programs assigned to it for local administration still under the committee system. In 1941, surplus wheat owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation was made available as feed wheat. This wheat was made available to feed deficit areas for sale to livestock producers at market price. Some 25,500 bushel of feed wheat was sold in the county at 85 cents a bushel in 1942, and 18,000 bushel in 1943 at \$1.03 per bushel. This was a temporary program brought about by the need for other feed grains being used in the war effort.



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The county committee was involved in the cotton mattress program in 1941. Cotton and ticking were made available to those needy families who were willing to make their own mattresses. A 'make-it-yourself' mattress could be obtained for \$2.00. Some 60 families took advantage of the program. This helped the cotton producer by using up cotton that was also in surplus, like wheat, corn, and other grains.

Wheat allotments that had been in effect for several years were eliminated in 1942 so as to permit farmers to go all out in the production of food "to win the war and write the peace". Wheat has not been produced in Natrona County on a large scale. In 1941, there were 15 farms with wheat allotments; of these, 14 planted less than 15 acres, and one over 15 acres, who produced less than 200 bushels of grain. Wheat acreage allotments were again declared in 1953, effective with the 1954 crop. Allotments on wheat are still in effect. Acreage planted to wheat reached the 900-acre figure in 1951. The jump to wheat in the county was not occasioned entirely by farmers planting wheat for food during the war, but was due to farmers developing new land on the Kendrick Irrigation Project, using wheat as a nurse crop with seedings of grass and alfalfa. In 1963 some 41 acres of wheat were seeded by three producers.

The programs under the administration of ASCS have been adapted to changes in need for food by our Nation. The period of 1935 to 1941 was a period of food surpluses. With our Nation at war in 1941, the emphasis was placed on the increased production of food. Agricultural production goals were established for the various commodities. Farmers were asked to raise more grain and stockmen more pounds of meat.

County War Boards were organized in 1942. The chairman of the county committee, along with representatives of other agricultural agencies, comprised the membership of the War Boards. The following people served on the County War Board - J. H. Rissler, chairman, representing the Agricultural Adjustment Agency; W. T. Kirk, Extension Service; Ernes Beaver, Farm Security Administration; M. J. Hamilton, Farm Credit Administration; and M. J. Burke, the Production Credit Association. The War Boards performed such tasks as encouraging the farmers to collect and sell scrap iron; housewives to save used or waste fat for deposit in collection containers at stores, all for use in the war effort.

The County War Board was involved in farm machinery rationing and the allocation of replacement trucks to farmers and ranchers. Farm machinery and trucks were not manufactured during the war and replacements came from stock on hand when manufacturers converted their plants to war material. A farm machinery committee was established to assist the War Board. Members of the farm machinery committee were J. H. Rissler, representing the county committee; Homer Lathrop and Nelson C. Smith.

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In 1943, dairy feed payments were authorized as a means of encouraging the production of dairy products without increasing the cost to the consumer. Many items were under price control to keep prices from sky-rocketing. The paying of a subsidy on dairy products was deemed necessary to increase production without upsetting the price control program. The job of making these payments fell upon the county offices. This program was extended to beef, sheep and lambs in 1944 and 1945. These payments were discontinued in 1946 after the war. There were 41 producers of dairy products receiving payments in 1943. There are only two local producers of dairy products in the county today. Large dairy chains supply the local people with fresh milk and butter.

The end of World War II was followed with a return to surpluses. The year 1945 saw the name of the agency changed to Production & Marketing Administration, to more appropriately fit the changing times.

Farmers in Natrona County in 1948 were not all successful in finding a market for their grain at a fair market price. This was the first year for farmers in the county to take advantage of the loan and purchase agreement provisions of the price support program under the Commodity Credit Corporation, but available locally through the county office. One loan was made on 1505 bushels of barley and one on wheat covering 1016 bushels. Grain placed under the loan has always been redeemed by the producer.

A farm storage facility loan program was made available in 1948 to enable farmers to construct grain storage facilities on their farms. This program came into being at a time when people developing raw land on the Kendrick Project were in need of assistance in obtaining storage facilities. Some 34 loans have been made to provide storage facilities with a capacity of 118,306 bushels. These loans have all been repaid with the exception of the current one.

In 1951, engineering work in connection with many of the practices approved by the county committee under the Agricultural Conservation Program were assigned to the Soil Conservation Service by the Secretary of Agriculture. Previously this work had been performed by someone employed by the county committee. The county committee had employed H. L. (Spec) Worthington, George Sun, Martin Gersic, and Floyd Trantham to do this type of work. Two of these employees, H. L. Worthington and George Sun are now associated with the firm of Worthington-Lenhart and Associates in the practice of professional engineering. George Sun resigned from the A.A.A. to enter the ranch business and while engaged in ranching was elected to the county committee.

Employees of the Soil Conservation Service, who have been responsible for engineering work in connection with the ACP have been Robert Corbett, A. L. Demorest, and H. F. Coates.



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In 1953, a severe drouth extended over the county. Feed grain at reduced rates was made available to stockmen. Requests were approved by the Farmers Home Administration Committee. Purchase orders for approved stockmen were issued by PMA to feed dealers who in return were to redeem grain from Commodity Credit Corporation surplus stocks.

Stockmen were faced with a drouth again in 1960 and 1961. The county was declared a drouth area. This time, stockmen in need of grain were approved by the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. The grain available to the stockmen was made available by the county committee directly to the ranchers from C.C.C. stock instead of being handled by feed dealers, as in the past.

In 1954, Congress passed legislation known as the Wool Act. This program provided for incentive payments to producers of unshorn lambs and wool. The purpose of the Act was to encourage the domestic production of sheep and lambs. Our Nation is a heavy importer of foreign wool to meet domestic needs. Funds for making payments are taken from tariff duties on imported wool. This program has been well received in the county. All sheep producers apply for incentive payments each year. There were 117 applications for incentive payments on wool in the 1962 marketing year and 86 on unshorn lambs. The county average selling price of wool was 41.7 cents per pound, compared with a National average of 47.7 cents per pound.

The sheep industry has been well represented through the years on the county committee. The following producers of lambs and wool have served on the county committee in addition to others already mentioned in this history - John Burke, A. I. Garbutt, M. F. Gowin, Hershal Haygood, Fulton Jameson, Art McClellan, L. C. Mills, Walt Schlager, James Speas, J. L. Spears, and Pete Tobin. Any mention of the sheep industry in Natrona County invariably brings up the name of Harold Josendal, who has devoted many years representing the wool growers at State and National levels. Mr. Josendal has found time to serve on the community committee.

The Agricultural Act of 1956 authorized the Soil Bank. This program provided for the retirement of cropland the the keeping of land out of wheat. Three producers took advantage of the Conservation Reserve part of the program and retired land from crop production. One contract remains in effect. One other producer, whose contract expired in 1962, placed his land in the Land Utilization Program, a part of the 1962 Feed Grain Program. The Acreage Reserve provided reimbursement for reduction on the acreage of wheat. Both the Conservation Reserve and Acreage Reserve parts of the Soil Bank contained a provision of 'no grazing' during the period of the contract.

In 1961, new legislation by Congress brought the Feed Grain Program into being. The Feed Grain Program provided for a reduction in acreage planted

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to corn, sorghums and/or barley. The base period used was 1959 and 1960. Farmers in Natrona County had most of their cropland acreage in hay and pasture during the base period. Some of the hay and pasture acreage, because of depletion of stand, has been plowed out and planted to corn and barley in recent years. Most of the corn has been harvested as silage for livestock feeding purposes and the barley as grain for livestock feeding.

In 1962 came the Wheat Stabilization Act. One wheat producer has participated in the program by not planting wheat and not grazing the diverted acreage.

The programs under the administration of Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service have been well accepted by Natrona County farmers and ranchers over the years. This is proven by the number of operators participating in the programs; at the same time realizing some programs have not been used to any great extent because of the limited farming operations and the agricultural economy being mostly of range livestock operations. There are today, some 197 operating units in the county considered as eligible to participate compared with 416 in 1935, when A.A.A. was started. The following is a breakdown of participation by programs in 1962:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Number of participants</u>
ACP	96
Wheat Stabilization	1
Feed Grain	1
Price Support	1
Wool Incentive	117
Lamb Incentive	86
Farm Storage Facility	1
Wheat Allotments	21
Emergency Livestock Feed	108

This history of the Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service Office in Natrona County, and the programs that have been and are now under its administration, would not be complete without mentioning whether or not they had actually accomplished something of long lasting benefit.

The Wool program, intended for the purpose of encouraging the domestic production of wool, has helped to maintain sheep numbers. As many operators remark when they apply for their incentive payment, the incentive payment is the difference between staying in business and going broke. The Census for 1950 showed 206,623 ewes and lambs, compared with 242,756 head in 1960. However, this is less than the 379,091 head in 1935.



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The ACProgram has contributed to better management and utilization of grazing land in the county. Better utilization of range land has been accomplished by the many stockwater reservoirs and wells that have been developed. These stockwatering places will be in use for a good many years in the future.

The ACProgram has resulted in better range management. When the program was first initiated, cost-sharing was based on grazing capacity and any participation was based on not overgrazing. The county committees for several years offered a deferred grazing practice which further impressed the operators as to proper carrying capacity. Today, the number of animal units of livestock in the county is far less than in 1935. There has been a change in kind of livestock, the change being from sheep to cattle. In 1935 there were 379,091 head of sheep compared with 242,756 in 1959. Cattle and calves increased from 30,527 head in 1935 to 47,594 in 1959, according to the census. These figures show the decrease in sheep numbers was not offset by an equal increase in cattle when converted to animal unit basis. The program evidently familiarized the stockmen with proper carrying capacity and they have maintained their numbers accordingly.

Some credit should be given to the ACP for the increase in weight of livestock produced on the range. Sixty-five pounds was the average weight of feeder lambs fifteen years ago. Today the average weight of feeder lambs is closer to 75 pounds.

Many programs may not have had wide applicability to the county's agriculture, but county and community committeemen have endeavored to adapt them to local conditions and in doing this have helped a number of operators. The committee system of operation has proven to be very effective and is the strong factor in making for good program administration.

The ASCS programs in 1963 were under the administration of a county committee whose members had 8 years of service in office. They are Walter J. Schlager, chairman; Merl Rissler, vice-chairman, M. F. Gowin, regular member. First and second alternates are Warren Duthie and Daniel Miller.

Merl Rissler and M. F. Gowin have served consecutive terms on the county committee. The re-election of one or more members to the committee provides for continuity of program operations and a better understanding of all phases of the programs.

The present county committee represents all types of agriculture in the county. Walt Schlager raises sheep and produces crops such as beans, grain and hay. Merl Rissler raises cattle and produces hay and grain.

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Millard Gowin raises cattle and fattens feeder cattle from corn and hay produced on irrigated land.

The county office personnel in 1963 are Tom Rennard, County Office Manager, Gloria Anderson and Valgene Waugh. They have a total of 32 years of ASCS service to farmers and ranchers. John Sloan is employed on a part-time basis to assist with acreage measurements and checking of practices performed by program participants.

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NIOBRARA COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND PERSONNEL



Left to right (seated) John Bruegger, County Committeeman; Martin Glandt, Chairman County Committee; and Sam Rennard, County Committeeman. (Standing) Thelma R. Heany, Chief Clerk; R. A. "Dick" Brashear, County Office Manager; and Shirley L. Owens, Clerk.

Missing from the picture is Sylvester E. "Si" West, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee.





HISTORY OF NIOBRARA ASCS COUNTY OFFICE

August 13, 1962

It all started back in the middle of July, 1933, when the County Agent's Office, under the supervision of Edgar A. Reeves, County Agent, was delegated the work of administering the local Wheat Production Program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The permanent organization was set up with the county being divided into five districts and a permanent set of officers being elected for each district. At a meeting of the chairman of each district the permanent county organization was set up and the allotment committee elected. There were 123 contracts completed, receiving a total of \$7,190.80. At this time nothing definite had been decided in regards to the Corn and Hog Program in the county. However, much interest was shown by the producers in the Wheat Program. The farm supervisors for 1934 and 1935 for the Wheat Production Control Program were Rex O. Morse, Danny Morse, Leslie L. ZumBrunnen, Aubrey ZumBrunnen, W. Frank Cogdill and Louis T. Larson.

The Corn and Hog Control Association was started in March of 1934 with Roy ZumBrunnen, president; L. L. Lee, vice-president; Edgar A. Reeves, County Agent, secretary; Andrew McMasters, Treasurer; Ben Seikert and Rex O. Morse as members of the Corn-Hog Allotment Committee. Farm supervisors hired to obtain farm records under this program were Leslie L. ZumBrunnen, Rex O. Morse, Aubrey ZumBrunnen and L. L. Lee.

Due to the drouth of the early thirties, the Cattle and Sheep Buying Program was inaugurated with the first carload leaving Wyoming on July 1 from Niobrara County. Serving on the Cattle Buying Committee were Edward Arnold, Alfred Johnson, and Edgar A. Reeves, County Agent. On the Sheep Buying Committee were A. T. Harris, Lawrence Johnson and the County Agent, Edgar A. Reeves.

The wheat acreage at this time was measured by plane tables for compliance. In 1935, under the supervision of a new County Agent, J. Melvin Stephenson, the Wheat Program continued with the allotment committee consisting of Lee H. Shrum, George H. Grant, Thomas L. Cantwell and Roy L. ZumBrunnen being established. Serving on the first Board of Directors for wheat were Lee H. Shrum, president; Thomas L. Cantwell, treasurer; Roy L. ZumBrunnen and the County Agent as secretary, with George H. Grant as member. This Board of Directors served in the same capacity as the present County ASCS Committee. To save considerable time and expense the A-stick was used in measuring corn and wheat fields under contract. The referendum vote held for contract signers in May resulted in 80 contract signers voting for continuance of the program and 10 against. Sixteen non-contract signers voted for and six against the program.

The total wheat acreage during the base periods for farms under 1933-1935 contracts was 8,028 acres compared with 13,571 acres for 1963.

Niobrara County -

With the continuation of the Corn-Hog Program the Board of Directors were Roy L. ZumBrunnen, president; Louis L. Lee, vice-president; Andrew McMaster, treasurer; Martin Strube and Thomas Lloyd Jones, Members, with the County Agent as secretary. The allotment committee for the Corn-Hog Program were Roy L. ZumBrunnen, Louis L. Lee and Andrew McMaster. The corn referendum was held in October, resulting in 87 contract signers voting; 76 voted for and 11 against.

On January 6, 1936 the Supreme Court ruled the Agricultural Adjustment Administration unconstitutional, but nothing was done in the county until April, when six community organizations were set up as follows: Keeline-Jireh Community - Wallace W. Ball, chairman; Legrand Lee, vice-chairman; L. J. Heine, member; Lusk-Van Tassell Community - Andrew McMaster, chairman; Herbert Sabin, vice-chairman; and Louis T. Larson, member; Cheyenne River Community - L. E. Davis, chairman; Thomas Lloyd Jones, vice-chairman; and J. L. Miller, member; Kirtley-Van Tassell Community - J. W. Paulson, chairman; George K. Hammond, vice-chairman; John Seimsen, member; Hat Creek Community - G. D. Percival, chairman; Ben Rice, vice-chairman; and Dave Mill, member; Manville-Lance Community - T. L. Cantwell, chairman; W. Frank Cogdill, vice-chairman; and C. A. Pinkerton, member.

The Directors elected for 1936 were Andrew McMaster, president; J. W. Paulson, vice-president; T. L. Cantwell, additional member and treasurer. J. Melvin Stephenson, County Agent, was the secretary, with G. D. Percival as alternate member. T. Lloyd Jones was farm supervisor. Woodson Graham also worked at this time, checking and staking out reservoirs.

The Corn-Hog Program that functioned during 1935 dissolved in June, and the County Agent was appointed to handle the remaining affairs of the Association.

Under the 1936 Range Program there were 50 reservoirs, 20 wells, 50 springs and 120 miles of fence.

The Forest Service started Ranger Wilbur Goodson estimating grazing capacity with the aid of Roy Johnson, for the Deferred Grazing Program, which started in 1937. Because of the Range and Seed Loan Program, Dogie Community was added, and the Manville-Lance Creek Community were separated, thus making 8 communities. The County Committee, formerly called the Directors, were Lee H. Shrum, president; J. W. Paulson, vice-president; and R. J. McGuire, third member and treasurer.

Programs carried out under the Agricultural Conservation Program were range water conservation and supply, construction of range fences, reseeding depleted rangeland, and natural reseeding of deferred grazing lands. These programs brought approximately \$61,000.00 into the county in the form of benefit payments.



Niobrara County -

Early in 1938 Wilbur T. Brettell came to Niobrara County as the new County Agent. The establishment of acreage allotments on wheat and potatoes, the Federal Crop Insurance Program of insuring wheat, as well as the Commodity Credit Corporation's Wheat Loan Program were administered. The county committeemen helping to administrate these programs were Lee Shrum, chairman; Roy MaQuire, vice-chairman; and Walter Scott, member. J. W. Paulson served as alternate member and Claire Hecht as treasurer.

In 1937 it was determined that there was a need for ground mapping of all of the cropland acres in the county. Nine plane-table crews were hired for making these ground maps of the cropland acres in 1937. Working on these crews were Lavonne Pfeifer, Leslie L. ZumBrunnen, Leroy Black, Clifford Cox, Walter Scott, Frank Cogdill, Charles Hanson, Jr., Lester Hoffman, Donald Dielman, Lloyd Jones, Frank Dupes, Glen Langley, Rex Morse and Aubrey ZumBrunnen.

It was noted in 1939, sign-up periods were held instead of the continuous sign-up as we have now.

Frank Cogdill, chairman; J. W. Paulson, vice-chairman; C. A. David, member; W. T. Brettell, secretary; Claire Hecht, treasurer with H. E. Sabin, first alternate and J. P. Bartos as second alternate served on the 1939 and 1940 county committee. They administrated the programs of the previous years along with the office staff, which was Minnie Frosheiser, Levern John Roberts and Betty Frosheiser Lingwood.

Strip farming was started in 1940 with 7000 acres being stripped. There were 90,000 acres of natural reseeding by deferred grazing, 225 range stock-water reservoirs, 50 water spreading dams and 35 range stockwells. In addition to the regular ACP and parity programs, the Crop Insurance Program was administrated through the AAA organization. Thirty-one farmers insured 1,036 acres of wheat or 25 percent of the total planted acreage in 1940.

A new program called the Cotton Mattress Program was administrated through the AAA. Triple A was the largest inter-agency program with which we were concerned.

Several features were added to the program during 1941, including marketing quotas, potato marketing referendum and acreage allotment, Cotton Mattress Program and USDA Defense activities. The county committeemen serving in 1941 were J. W. Paulson, chairman; Herbert Sabin, vice-chairman and C. A. David, regular member. The office staff was Minnie Frosheiser, treasurer and compliance clerk, Dorothy Hering, statistical clerk and Roy A. Johnson, county supervisor. The committee administrated an \$85,000 conservation program, a \$4,244 parity program, a \$5,600 commodity loan program, a crop insurance program covering 1090 acres of wheat, a wheat marketing quota program covering 248 farms, a potato referendum and the USDA defense sign-up. Besides administrating the other programs of previous years, they assisted



with bond drives and salvaging of all available war material. The county committeemen serving were J. W. Paulson, chairman; H. E. Sabin, vice chairman; C. A. David, regular member; Lee H. Shrum, first alternate and Woodson Graham as second alternate, with the same office staff as in 1941.

The year 1943 started with nine communities. The county committee was J. W. Paulson, chairman; H. E. Sabin, vice chairman; C. A. David, regular member; T. Lloyd Jones, first alternate and Woodson Graham, second alternate. In May, Paulson resigned and each of the committeemen moved up a step, with Herbert Sabin as chairman. Sub-committees for the USDA War Board were appointed to serve on transportation, rationing, meat marketing and price administration.

The county office was moved from the County Agent's office in May, 1944. The new location was over the J. C. Penney Store, which is now the I.O.O.F. Hall; the same committee serving, with T. Lloyd Jones as county supervisor. Mr. Jones was county supervisor from February 1942 until May 1949, when he resigned as county supervisor to accept a position in the State office. Joan Klemke Scace worked in the office from June 1948 through November 1950. Others who worked in the county office were Elaine Keefer, Maxine Bancroft and Mrs. Lafe Culver Jr. During the time Mr. Jones served as county supervisor he solicited the help of several of the community committeemen to assist in acreage measurements and ACP compliance checking.

After the war the emergency programs were dropped and the other programs continued. In about 1945 the office was moved to the Erwin Building over which is now the Scott Jewelry Store. S. E. West was the new County Agent and acted as an ex-officio member of the committee. During this period Roy Johnson, Roy Turnbull and Joseph Klemke served as committeemen. With the resignation of T. Lloyd Jones as county supervisor, Woodson Graham took his place working with James Ringer and several other committeemen of which we have no record. Serving the county committee in 1954 were James M. Ringer, chairman; Roy Turnbull, vice chairman; R. K. Groves, member. With the resignation of Mr. Ringer and Mr. Turnbull in July, Lawrence W. Gibbs and William F. Taylor came on the committee. Alice McFarland Johnson was the clerk from February 1950 until June 1956. The National Wool Act Program and the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program came in at about this time.

Serving on the county committee in 1955 were R. K. Groves, chairman; Charles E. Glagg, vice chairman and William F. Taylor as regular member. George Gibbs and Gordon von Forell served as farmer fieldmen. Mr. von Forell is still the present fieldman. R. K. Groves remained as chairman in 1956, serving with Emil Klemke as vice chairman and A. D. Kruse as regular member. Myrna Nelson Baker replaced Alice McFarland Johnson as clerk.

In the fall of 1956 the Acreage Reserve Program came into existence continuing through 1958.

The same committee serving in 1956 was re-elected in 1957, but with the resignation of Mr. Groves in May 1957, Sam Rennard came on the committee. Thelma Kraft Freeman, Carole Jordan Holtz and Dean Fosher served as clerks at various times during 1957.

## Niobrara County -

The new year of 1958 found a new program born and named "Conservation Reserve", with a life span of three years. There are 22 contracts still in force, covering 6375 acres with an annual payment of \$61,638. The last of these contracts will expire the end of December 1969.

Clayton Allen came as the new office manager, with the resignation of Woodson Graham, who resigned because of ill health. However, Mr. Graham stayed on for six months as chief clerk. The committee consisted of Martin Glandt, chairman; A. D. Kruse, vice-chairman and Sam Rennard, regular member. With the resignation of A. D. Kruse, John Bruegger came on the committee in September to fill the vacancy. R. A. Brashear came into the office in November 1958 as acting county office manager. The same committee has served since, with Mr. Brashear becoming office manager in February 1959 and Thelma R. Heany coming in as clerk with the resignation of Carole Jordan Holtz. In September of 1959 Shirley L. Owens joined the staff as a clerk, with Thelma R. Heany being promoted to chief clerk. Several new programs were administrated along with the old ones, the first being the Emergency Livestock Feed Program from the fall of 1960 through the spring of 1962, thus helping to maintain the breeding herds in the county during the drouth period. One-hundred and forty producers received 5,939,746 pounds of milo, 611,272 pounds of corn and 1,510,035 pounds of barley.

The Feed Grain Program was instituted for the years 1961 and 1962, which was a reduction of acreage of feed grain grown. There are five farms participating, diverting 132 acres and receiving \$1,588.

The Wheat Stabilization Program came into effect in 1962 with a 10% mandatory cut and an additional 30% voluntary participation. Forty-eight farmers have reduced the wheat acreage in Niobrara County by 1,148 acres and will receive a total payment of \$24,547.

At the present time we have 46,715 bushels of wheat stored on farms under the Commodity Loan Program.

Under the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program seven producers have loans in which they have built grain storage. There are 96 wheat farms with 8274 acre allotment.

One hundred and forty sheep producers received \$140,645 under the Wool Incentive Program.

Under the 1961 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), 175 farms participated and received a total payment of \$80,808 for seeding and improving 3426 acres of grassland, 30 stockwater wells, 27 water storages (at wells) 21 stockwater dams, 26,620 linear feet of pipeline for stockwater, 81,795 linear feet of spreader ditches and 3 windbreaks for livestock.

Niobrara County -

The Niobrara County ASCS Office moved to its present location in the Godfrey Building at 245 South Main Street in January 1959.

We all realize the many changes that have taken place over the years, the aid and improvement to our county because of the aforementioned programs through the efforts of the producers and personnel of the USDA.

We extend a personal invitation to any of the pioneers of the USDA who may have additional information to add to these pages to drop into the office and tell us about it.

\* \* \* \* \*



PARK COUNTY

1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES

County Committee



W. H. Reed      Melvin Scott      Chrm'n. Roland J.  
Earhart

Office Manager



Gene Gimmeson

Other Employees



(Standing) L to R: G. W. Vaught, Program Clerk;  
Leola I. Sironen, Program Clerk; and Arthur J. Eck,  
Performance Supervisor. (Seated) Claire M. Smith,  
Chief Clerk.

Missing from pictures are: Harold D. Hurich, County Agent and ex-officio member of County Committee; and Maynard Hawley and Don M. Fraker, 1962 County Committeemen.





HISTORY OF PARK ASCS COUNTY OFFICE

August 31, 1962

In 1933, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, better known as the AAA was introduced to Park County. It was originally under the direction of the County Extension Service with Mr. F. A. Chisholm as the County Agent. At that time, he had as his secretary Mrs. M.R. Hoffman, and the county office was located in the Court House in Cody, Wyoming. Mrs. Hoffman was employed by the county committee. The AAA, as all subsequent Agencies, has been under the direction of the farmer-elected committee system. One of the first programs under the direction of the farmer-committee was the voluntary reduction of wheat acreage, and for his participation, the farmer received a cash payment. One of the committeemen who piloted the AAA in its early years was the late Mr. R. A. Allan, who served as chairman for a number of years. One of the functions of the AAA was to map all of the farms in the county. Mr. Roland J. Earhart, assisted by B. L. Gillett was in charge of this operation. Mr. Hubert Hart was one of the first field supervisors for the AAA and he later became a fieldman for the Northwest District.

In 1936, the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) came into being, its primary purpose in the early days was for range improvement and the building of range reservoirs, wells on rangeland and fences was a big program in the county. The practices which were used in the row-crop area was primarily soil building green manure crops and the renovation of alfalfa. During this period, J. M. Nichols became County Agent and was also secretary-treasurer to the county committee. By 1939, USDA had a Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Program and at about this time, the Price Support Program came into being. A Sugar Act payment was begun and the sugar beet producers came into the office and signed for their checks.

During the War years, the county committee system was used for the rationing and distribution of farm machinery and farm tires. At this time, we also had a milk subsidy program and farmers could bring in their cream or milk checks and receive a subsidy payment on them. The county office was active in stimulating the sale of War Bonds in the county. In 1944, the county committeemen were R. A. Allan, Fred Thomas and Martin Zinn.

In 1945, the AAA office was moved to Powell and located in the basement of the Post Office Building. In 1946, the office was moved to the rear of the Elder Building, and the county committee at this time was Elmer Hewitt, Harry McNeil and Felix Hoff. Frances Corkins became the clerk and she later replaced J. M. Nichols as secretary-treasurer to the county committee. Other clerks during this time were Nellie Matson and Hazel Wallace and the field supervisor was Omar E. Christensen.

In 1947 more land was brought under the jurisdiction of the county office with the opening of the Heart Mountain Project to farming. The same county committee served in 1947 and the only new personnel was Jack Loveland who was assistant farm supervisor.

Park County -

In 1948 Jack Loveland was transferred to Washakie County as field supervisor and Gene Gimmeson replaced him as assistant field supervisor. In 1948 the name was changed to Agricultural Conservation Association. One of the most controversial programs under the ACA came about in 1948 when the USDA got into the Potato Diversion Program. The committee was responsible for the distribution of potatoes to livestock feeders, but they were first piled in the fields and dyed to keep them from being marketed. This same year we had a disastrous fire which destroyed a good many records which had been accumulated by the county office. The office then was moved to the Learned Building.

In 1949 more land was brought into agricultural production when the Ralston Bench area was opened to homesteaders. We had two new committeemen, Harry Anderson and Arthur Pearson. New personnel were F. T. Richards, Mary T. Elledge, and Helen Irene Franklin. New programs initiated this year was the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program which helped farmers buy much needed grain storage bins by loaning 80% of the cost of the bin. This proved to be a very worthwhile program in the county and still is being used extensively.

In 1950 our name was changed again, this time we were known as Production Marketing Administration (PMA). The programs remained about the same with more emphasis being placed on ACP. In 1950 the county committee consisted of A. B. Elledge and Clyde Webster along with Elmer M. Hewitt. One of the big programs at this time was the allotment on dry edible beans, this being the major crop in this county, it became a rather large program. Leo Bessler, Chauncy McMillin and Lee Rowe were hired to do the measuring of all bean acreage in the county.

In 1951 the office was moved to the Bever Building and new committeeman was Harvey Scott. This same year saw a big turn-over in employees. Francis Richards, who had worked for the past seven years as secretary-treasurer to the county committee, resigned and moved out of the county. Mary T. Elledge, as well as Helen Irene Franklin, resigned. The county committee hired W. E. Jarrett as secretary-treasurer, and Claire M. Smith and Ella Fink as clerks. During this period we had a very large price support program, mainly on beans. When bean loans were first made in the county, it was necessary that the loan documents be mailed to Casper and the checks were issued at the State Office. This became quite a problem when producers wanted to repay their loans, therefore, the county committee was successful in persuading CCC to handle all loans at the county level. The money was disbursed by the local banks with CCC guaranteeing the loan. In our high years, we exceeded more than one million dollars per year a number of times. Still the mainstay program was the ACP, in which there was a large participation throughout the county. Land leveling and drainage were the main practices along with the seeding practices. Several large pooling agreements were carried out in the upper country for ditch reorganization projects. This same year the office was moved to the Pond and Pond Building, which has since been replaced by the new high school building.



Park County -

Along about this time, the famous Memo which indicated a marriage between the PMA and SCS was received by the county office and the SCS took over all of the ACP which required any technical work. At this same time, all Federal Agencies were united in one building; the SCS, the PMA and a little later, the FHA.

The county committee in 1952 consisted of Elmer Hewitt, J. Felix Hoff and A. B. Elledge.

In 1953 wheat allotments were put into effect, the allotment for Park County being 3545.0 acres, as compared to 2524.0 for 1963. This same year, W. E. Jarrett left the employ of the county committee and Gene Gimmeson became the office manager and Mary Ellen Moore was hired as a new clerk.

The new county committeeman in 1954 was W. H. Reed and new personnel hired during the summer months for measuring wheat was Wells Vaught who was assisted by Bill Barnhart, another new employee. That fall, Bill Barnhart left the employ of the county committee to go into the Armed Services, but Wells Vaught remained with us.

In 1955 new committeemen were Don O. Fraker and Sam Osborne. Sugar beet allotments was a new program which was given to the county committee, and R. B. Westpahl was employed to measure wheat and sugar beets. He was assisted by Kenneth Ashmead. Pat Roberts was hired as a temporary clerk during the summer months. In a special program in conjunction with the SCS, D. Gordon Despain was employed to map the entire Clarksfork farming area. This year another new program, the Wool Program, came into being and Donna Kisor was hired as a new clerk to replace Mary Ellen Moore.

In 1956 Elmer Hewitt was not reelected to the county committee for the first time since 1944. Mr. Hewitt had been a very faithful and conscientious worker and was truly missed by the county office personnel as well as the State Office personnel.

New committeeman in 1956 was Vincent Schiltz. Again one of the most difficult programs for the county committee to administer was the Sugar Beet Program, due to the fact that the committee only had around 2500.0 acres to distribute among 120 old sugar beet producers, and we had numerous requests for new grower allotments which were not granted due to the fact that we had no acres to give them. We had two new employees this year. Jackie Hecht was hired as clerk to replace Donna Kisor, and Arthur Eck was hired as performance supervisor. Our name was changed again, this time to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC).

In 1957 the committee consisted of A. B. Elledge, Wayne Baker and Vincent Schiltz. A new program came into effect this year, the Acreage Reserve Program, and we had considerable activity in it. It is the only program which the county committee has had in which they actually paid a payment on the type of land which was put in a program. A new employee this year was Verna Jean Wynn, who replaced Jackie Hecht as clerk.



Park County -

Each year for the past several years we have had a complete turnover of county committeemen. In 1958 our county committee consisted of Ernest Good, Lyle Baker and Melvin Scott, and the most controversial program for the county committee to administer again was the Sugar Beet Allotment Program. New employees this year were Vada Tirrell and Eldora Acott, who each worked half a day.

In 1959 new committeemen were Forrest Martin, Frank Moore and Calving Darling. A new employee, Leola Sironen, was hired to replace Vada Tirrell and Eldora Acott, both of whom had resigned. This was the year of the hot beets, which turned out to be quite an administrative headache for the county committee. This year the county committee introduced an increased rate on ditch lining to increase participation in this program, and it has proved to be a very worthwhile practice since then, with an increasing participation in it each year.

The county committee for 1960 consisted of Roland Earhart, E. O. Siddle and Calvin Darling. This year we had no new employees for the first time in a number of years. The same employees have been with us since then. This year the office was moved again, this time to its present location, and everyone was very happy because this is a brand new building and the first time we have been housed in a new building.

In 1961 the county committee consisted of Roland Earhart, Maynard Hawley and Don M. Fraker. The Feed Grain Program was a new program which came into being this year and in which we had considerable participation. The county committee also is responsible for a revised program for CCC in which they were allowed to make loans on farm-stored beans with an excess of 8% damage. This proved to be a very beneficial program to the farmers in the county this year since a great number of them had low-grade beans due to the extremely wet fall and high wind damage to the crop, which is still one of our largest cash crops. We also had considerable activity in the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program this year as farmers needed additional storage for their beans. This year our name was altered from Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

The same county committee was elected for 1962, this being the first time that this had happened in 7 years. We had two new programs; barley was added to the Feed Grain Program, and a Wheat Stabilization Program was added. We had considerable activity in both of these programs.

At the present time the ASC is responsible for the administering of the following programs: ACP, Acreage Allotments and Marketing Quotas, Compliance, Soil Bank, Price Support, Wool Program, Sugar Program, Disaster Relief Programs, Great Plains Conservation Program, Soil and Water Conservation Program, Feed Grain Program, Marketing Orders and Agreements and Farm Storage Facility.

Park County -

Present personnel employed by the county committee are: Gene Gimmeson, Office Manager; Claire M. Smith, Chief Clerk; Wells Vaught, Head ACP Clerk; Leola Sironen, Program Clerk; and Arthur Eck, Performance Supervisor.

The name of the county office has been separated from that of the county committee, since it is now the ASC committee, and the office is the ASCS office.

Looking back over the years, there have been a good many changes in the office locations and personnel, but the committee system has remained as have some of the programs, although many new programs have been added in an effort to help the farmer out of his present dilemma. We hope to get the job done somehow and sometime, and when this has been accomplished, we can all look back and say "I hope I helped a little," as an employee of the Department of Agriculture.

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PLATTE COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES



Seated L to R. Clark V. Anderson, County Committeeman; Gerald W. Johnson, Performance Supervisor; Julius Miller, Chairman County Committee; and Glen Cochran, County Committeeman. (Standing) Oscar B. Gudahl, County Office Manager; Edna M. Ryff, Program Clerk; Marjorie A. Krewer, Program Clerk; and Wauneta M. Terry, Chief Clerk.

Missing from the picture is Del H. Landen, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee.





CORN-HOG ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE AT WORK IN PLATTE COUNTY





HISTORY OF PLATTE ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
July 17, 1962

The United States Department of Agriculture is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. However, it was a good many years before any USDA programs began operating in Platte County. It was in the year of 1914 that our first county agent set up an office here under the Extension Service. Then in 1934, as a result of the depression, the Wheat Parity Program was set up under the Agriculture Adjustment Administration or the AAA, as it was most generally referred to. This program was set up to help alleviate the desperate financial conditions of the wheat farmer through parity payments. These payments were made to wheat farmers at rates that were calculated to bring the wheat farmers income up to a rate comparable in buying power to the 1910-1914 era, when a farmer's income was considered as equal in buying power to other occupational incomes. The price of wheat was down to 18¢ per bushel at both Slater and Chugwater.

Our first county committee consisted of Merle Douglas, Herman Hellbaum and Elmer (Swede) Larson, with County Agent George Boyd, Acting Secretary.

In the same year the first Corn, Hog Program was set up in Platte County with S. Manning, J. E. Holmes and Merle Douglas as the first county committee. County Agent George Boyd was also secretary to this committee. This program was instituted to help alleviate the hog raiser's troubles. Hog prices had dropped to \$2.00 per cwt. Parity payments were made under this program, also based on the 1910-1914 years' prices as compared to the cost of supplies that the farmer had to buy.

It was also in 1934 that the first Sugar Beet Program was set up in Platte County. Marlin Baker, Sr., Wayne Pence and Dan Carey were members of that county committee with County Agent Boyd as secretary again. This was set up to help in the price of sugar payments. Payments for the Sugar program have always been paid from a processing tax of 50¢ per cwt that is collected on all sugar processed in the U. S. whether the raw sugar is imported or home grown.

In the fall of 1934 the AAA was declared unconstitutional. That was where the Conservation program was set up. The idea was to conserve the fertility of our land for future generations.

In 1936 the first Agricultural Conservation Association was set up in Platte County with Earl Romig, Marlin Baker, Sr., and S. R. Mills as members. County Agent George Boyd was named as secretary of this committee also. All the different programs, except the Extension Service, Farm Home Administration and the Soil Conservation Service Programs were combined under one management.

The AC Practice payments, price support, sugar beet, farm storage facility loan, conservation reserve (soil bank), wheat marketing quota, wool and unshorn lambs incentive payment, the feed grain and the wheat stabilization programs are all included in what is now called the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The original ACA has been reorganized and



## Platte County

renamed several times. It has been known as A.A.A., P.M.A., A.S.C. and is now the A.S.C.S. (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service).

We have come a long ways since 1934 in the service the farmers and ranchers are receiving. It used to be that a county office representative had to visit each farmer or rancher, in order to explain the benefits available thru the different programs. Meetings were held in each community where the details of the program were explained, but still personal contact had to be made to explain how a program would affect the farmer individually. Sign-up dates were held in different communities under the ACP program. We were working under difficulties as no records as to cropland, farmland, maps, aerial photos, etc., were available at that time.

These personal contacts did result in a very high percentage of cooperation under the ACP program. In checking records for '36 thru '39, we find that an average of 92% of the farmers did cooperate in this program. Only 43% signed up in 1961. Of course, there is a difference: in 1936 we needed to do a lot of conservation work on our farms and ranches and this work has been done, to a large extent, though there is still a lot to be done.

That our farming methods have improved a lot is evidenced by the fact that in 1938 (under the wheat allotment program) Platte County's average yield was 6.4 bushels per acre, while the 1961 average yield was set at 21.6 bu., per acre.

Another interesting thing--wheat loan rates in 1938 were 59¢ per bushel compared to the 1962 rate of \$1.90 per bushel. Our wheat yield increase is due in part to a small cost-share payment for strip-cropping. (Alternate strips of summer fallow and stubble crop) that was in effect under the 1938-1939 program years. Prior to 1938 our dry farms practiced continuous cropping and it took a small incentive payment to get a change to summer fallow and strip-cropping.

Volume of some of the 1961 ASCS Programs: Conservation Reserve, or Soil Bank, covered 25,000 acres with an annual payment of \$246,000. Shorn Wool and Unshorn Lamb Payments brought in \$57,000. Sugar Beet Payments totaled \$74,495. ACP Cost-share earned \$183,000. Feed Grain Program (Corn and Grain Sorghum payments) totaled \$68,800. We had price support loans on Farm Commodities totaling \$427,500.

Going back to 1934--it was this year that the livestock purchase program was set up as an aid to the stockman's financial plight. The wide spread drought and the depression together had driven the price of cattle and sheep so low that in many instances they would not bring enough to pay the freight, and railroads were demanding that the freight be prepaid on stock being shipped to market. The Government stepped in to save at least something for the stockman. The prices paid for cattle was \$20.00 a piece for mature stock, \$15.00 a piece for yearlings and 2-year olds with \$7.00 a piece being paid for anything under a year old. Sheep, as near as we can remember, brought \$2.00 per head. In summary, we can say that some phase of the ASCS Programs affects the income of every farmer, rancher and business man in Platte County.

SUPPLEMENT TO HISTORY OF PLATTE ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
August 8, 1963

In 1941 the Cotton Mattress and Comforter Program was designed to provide low income rural families with good mattresses and comforters and at the same time, divert a substantial amount of surplus cotton from normal trade channels.

This program was sponsored jointly by the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, Agricultural Extension Service and the Surplus Marketing Administration. The work was done under local leaders, trained to guide and assist them, to assure that mattresses and comforters of good quality would be made. Out of 778 farm operators in Platte County, 650 families benefited from this program.

The Commodity Loan Program was first instituted in 1938 and was limited to wheat. Since that time loan programs have been made available on rye, barley, oats, corn, flaxseed, dry edible beans, grain sorghums and honey. A specific trend in the development of the loan program in Wyoming is indicated by the increased quantity of wheat which each year is being stored upon the farm. During the past years farmers have found that farm storage has returned them substantially more for their grain crops than has been the case under warehouse loans.

In 1949 the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program was inaugurated whereby grain producers could borrow up to 85% of the cost of a granary, with 4% interest. The term of the loan was for 5 years with equal payments each year for four years. This program was to provide grain storage on the farm and to regulate the flow of crops to market, which reduces waste, alleviates crowded transportation facilities at harvest time, affords the producer the chance to market at the most opportune time. This also helps the consumer as it assures him a supply of the crop at all times. This loan has been increased up to 95% of the cost of the facility. Platte County has processed 219 Farm Storage Facility Loans since the beginning of the program.

In 1954 and 1955, several of the counties were experiencing a serious drought condition. Stockmen were forced by lack of feed on the winter range to move their stock on the summer range earlier than usual. Some ranchers depleted part of their herds due to lack of feed in the more serious drought counties. As a result of such drought conditions, the Drought Emergency Feed Program was inaugurated. The program terminated in all counties except Platte on April 30, 1957. Platte County had the termination date extended to May 15, 1957. In 1956 Platte County issued \$79,883.58 of dealer's certificates for the purchase of drought feed grain.

County Committeemen who have served in Platte County through the years are: A. A. Chase, Guy Milton, Joe Bowman, Oscar B. Gudahl, J. W. Blevins, Chas. Zohner, Earl Romig, W. W. Rains, Albert Weber (1935 corn-hog program) and Max Pensold. The present county committee consists of: Julius Miller, Chairman; Glen Cochran, Vice-Chairman; Clark V. Anderson, Regular Member and Del Landen, Ex-officio Member.

## Platte County

Other Employees - Office and Field, through the years are: Agnes Grant, Secretary for County Agent George Boyd; Helen Copley Shepherd, Doris Hiatt Musselman, Harold Hurich (Assistant County Agent), Glen Milburn, Ray Roberts, Joe Roberts, Frank Soward, William Redfern, James Jensen, Roy B. Purcell, Earl Harvey, Frank Shepard, Glyda Cochran May, Lucille Logan Trenholm, Clara Houseman Purcell, Ruth Adams Boyd, Wilma Labertew Nelson, Viola Wilhelm Voight, Mrs. Jack Howard, Marion Rugg Olinger, Irma Jean Rhoades Allison, Zelma Brawner Duff, Evelyn Richardson Romig, Eileen Clark DeLong, Marian Brewer Nagel, Laverne Hughes Borthwick, Ruby Goodwin, Velma Davis Foreman, Koreen Labertew Jones, Mrs. Eunice Boldebuck, Zoe Labertew Johnson, Ruth Wilhelm, Alice Beisner Walters, Marveyln Herman Walker, Mildred Rinker Hansel, Barbara Hopkins Stugart, Ruth Mers, Helen Marr, Patricia Herstein McQuisten, and Betty Collins. (These names are all taken from memory and undoubtedly we have missed some).

Our present employees are: Oscar B. Gudahl, Office Manager since 1953; Wauneta Terry, Chief Clerk with 12 years of service; Edna Ryff, Head Program Clerk, with 3 years of service; Marjorie Krewer, Head Program Clerk, with 2 years of service; Gerald "Bill" Johnson, Performance Supervisor, with 4 years of service; E. C. Cozad and Lyle Moffitt, part-time reporters.

Gordon von Forell is the Farmer Fieldman for the Southeast District of Wyoming. He succeeded Ray Kane who resigned in August, 1953 to go into a feed business in Brush, Colorado.

R. A. Brashear was county office manager trainee from January 1, 1958 to February 7, 1959. He left in February 1959 to accept the office of county office manager for Niobrara County in Lusk.

Ed Chase has been working in Platte County as office manager trainee for several months until July of this year when his training period expired. On August 3, 1962 he left for Converse County where he has accepted the office of Chief Clerk for that county.

Foot Note: This history and most of the figures are taken from Oscar B. Gudahl's memory. Some of the figures are taken from statistics.

\* \* \* \* \*



SHERIDAN COUNTY

1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES



Left to right - Gene E. Abernatha, Chief Clerk; Janet S. Kukuchka, County Office Manager; Joe T. Gorzalka, Chairman County Committee; Willis S. Perkins, County Committeeman; Avon Barney, County Committeeman; and Marvin L. Shell, Performance Supervisor. In the inset is Floyd Harper who served continuously on the County Committee from May 1941 to October 1, 1961, when he resigned due to ill health.

Missing from the picture are Pete Jensen, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee; and Allen Bard who served on the 1962 County Committee but was replaced by Avon Barney on the 1963 Committee.





SHERIDAN COUNTY

SOCIAL GATHERING



Sheridan County ACA and Agricultural Extension Service Office Picnic - 1943  
Sheridan, Wyoming

Left to Right - Ann Ingrahm, Mrs. Dan Ingrahm, Thelma Peterson, Janet (Symons) Kukuchka, Bessie Olson, Arvil D. Ashment and son Jon, Mrs. Arvil Ashment, Bill and Ida Jarrett and Betty Ann, Dan S. Ingrahm, Edna Prochaska, Katherine Bailey, Barbara Jewett, Marie Kummerfeld, Joe Prochaska and son Harry.

OPEN AIR CORN-HOG EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS - 1934 or 1935





HISTORY OF SHERIDAN ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
November 12, 1963

The first county committee organized under the Agricultural Adjustment Act was composed of R. L. (Lee) Bullington, Chairman, H. J. Paustian and E. D. Worden. Edgar A. (Ed) Reeves was the county agricultural agent and secretary to the county committee. Mr. Reeves later became the State Conservationist for SCS.

Dan S. Ingrahm took over the position of county agent in October 1937 and also served as secretary to the county ACA committee. Dan is now employed in the Bank of Commerce at Sheridan.

Other farmers and ranchers who served on the county committee since the first committee was organized were Martin Osgard, S. B. Williams, Alex Kaufmann, George R. Murdock, Thomas Strand, Floyd Harper, Adolph Laier, Bert Dow, Belton Evans, B. H. McCarty, W. A. Springer, Joe T. Gorzalka, Walter O. Hawkey, Don Rolston, Clark W. Ritchie, H. R. Snider, Allen Bard, Willis Perkins and Avon Barney.

Floyd Harper served on the county committee from December 1940 until his retirement, due to ill health, in October 1961. Thomas Strand went on to be a member of the State committee in October of 1945 and served until July 1953. Another longtime member of the county committee is Joe T. Gorzalka, who has served from January 1949 and is at present the chairman of the county committee.

Jack Clark was the treasurer and office manager in 1936 and 1937 and Edith Bull was a clerk. Both were in the office for a few years after. Jack Clark then went to work for the Holly Sugar Corporation. Glenn A. Connor was the county supervisor. Glenn later became an assistant to the State Engineer at Cheyenne.

Joe Prochaska went to work for the Sheridan County ACA in September of 1937 as a rodman, at the time the county was being mapped. He worked with several plane table and transit operators, including Harry Trouche and Glenn A. Connor. Joe worked with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in Washington D. C. for a short period of time in 1941 and then went back to work with the Sheridan County ACA, where he worked as a clerk, farm supervisor, etc., then he went to work with the State office in March of 1945. Joe is now Chief, Administrative Division of that office. When he says he started on the ground floor that's just what he means, as his feet are still flat from the milés and miles of walking when he worked as a rodman.

The county office moved from the basement of the court house to 107 South Main Street in 1942 and two years later, to 109 South Main. In 1951, the office moved to 3 North Main in a consolidation with FHA and SCS. In 1953, the SCS purchased the old weather bureau building and the three agencies moved into that building. In 1961 the office moved to its present location at 50 East Loucks Street.

W. E. (Bill) Jarrett went to work as a farm supervisor for the county committee in about 1940 and worked until June 1947. He went to work in the ACA office at Powell, Wyoming in 1951 and resigned there in 1953. Marvin Shell, the present performance supervisor, went to work with the county office in August 1956 and has been employed in that capacity since that time.



## Sheridan County -

Other people employed in the county office or in the field over the years included: Florence Rardin, Juanita J. Van Auken, Don Murdent, Gene Abernatha, Beverley Brock, Harold Green, Jay Yarrington, Marie Kummerfeld, Opal Dickson, Florence Small, Tony Podgornick, Elsworth (Jim) Verley, Floyd Walker, Jeff Doyle, Dick Yager, Margaret Melby, Al Walters, Jane Ralston, Nellie Lavergne, Thelma Peterson, H. A. (Si) Realing, and Arvil D. Ashment. Arvil D. Ashment was Assistant Secretary, 1941-1943, and is now the County Agent leader, Extension Service, University of Wyoming. H. A. (Si) Realing went to work in the AAA office in Thermopolis in October 1941 and was later in the real estate and insurance business there. He was killed in an automobile accident in 1958.

The first aerial photographs were taken of farm land in Sheridan County in 1939. Aerial photos were used in determining acreages under the various USDA programs and were quite an improvement over the ground maps which were made in 1937-38 by plane table and transit crews. Since 1939, new aerial photography has been taken to up-date their use for determining acreage compliance under the various programs.

In 1937, stockwater dams were built and then measured. What was considered an acceptable structure then couldn't compare to a structure a few years later, when the AAA office staked the dams before they were built and insisted on proper slopes, spillways, etc. The AAA people, who staked out dams from 1938 through 1950, were people with a farm or ranch background and they generally recognized a stockwater damsite when they saw it. In 1936, 23 stockwater dams were constructed; each year the number of dams grew and in 1944, 206 dams were built. The number decreased more or less each year and in 1962 only 7 stockwater dams were built. During the period 1936-1962, 2,364 stockwater dams had been constructed. These dams not only provide for better distribution of livestock to prevent overgrazing, but also hold the run-off and help retard erosion and flood damage. A few irrigation dams were constructed in the last few years, including the Willow Park and Kearney Lake reservoirs under pooling agreements involving several farmer participants. In 1962, 3 irrigation dams were constructed under the ACP.

The national trend towards fewer farms is also true in Sheridan County although the annual report figures do not show as great a difference as in neighboring counties. There were over 900 farms in 1936 and about 675 in 1962. However many of the farms listed in 1962 are very small acreages on the outskirts of Sheridan and the owners do not make a living from farming.

The sugar beet history of Sheridan County is interesting. In 1938, there were 180 producers that planted 4739 acres of sugar beets; in 1962, there were only 14 farms planting about 775 acres of beets. The sugar beet factory at Sheridan made its last campaign in 1947. Sugar beets are now shipped to the factory at Hardin, Montana.

In 1938, the first loan on farm-stored wheat was made. This was on an ever-normal granary bin of wheat at Deyo Hasbrouck's place south of Sheridan. Since that time, many loans and purchase agreements have been made to provide for orderly marketing. In 1939, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation offered all-risk insurance on wheat in Sheridan County. The first loss was paid to Art Dillot due to hail. Adrian Shoemaker, then on the State

Sheridan County -

committee, together with Reuben V. Anderson, State Crop Insurance Loss Adjustor, now active in the Wyoming Farm Bureau, came to Sheridan to help Joe Prochaska then County Crop Insurance Supervisor, to make the first adjustment.

The Agricultural Conservation Program has been the principal program in the county. In 1937, 475 farms participated; many of those farms, including small farms, participated only to the extent of being in compliance on soil-depleting bases. In 1962, 201 farms participated in the ACP. Approximately \$100,000 is paid each year in cost-share payments to producers who perform soil and water conservation practices. The producers contribute 50 percent or more of the cost of the practices and the ACP payments cover the difference. Irrigation practices are one of the main type practices at this time; many of the installations will not be of direct benefit to the producer who installs them, but will help preserve the land for future generations.

In 1950, the Soil Conservation Service took over the job of making practicability and need determinations on technical type practices which took engineering work and they also determined whether or not those technical practices met with their specifications upon completion. The 1951 fiscal year was the first in which not more than 5 percent of the county ACP allocation was to be transferred to the SCS, by the county committee, to reimburse SCS for technical services. Prior to 1950 the ASC county committee performed all of those functions. The county committee supervises the layout of certain practices like wells and fencing, in addition to the supervision over non-technical practices, like seedings, etc.

Over the years, ACP payments have been made by treasury check. This generally took about two weeks after the payments were scheduled. Now the ACP payments are made in the county office by the use of sight drafts; therefore, there is no delay in making payments after the payment forms are in order.

The Wheat Allotment and Marketing Quota Program is an important program in the county. In 1962, 296 farms, out of 333, cooperated in the program to hold plantings within allotments and to be eligible for price support and other benefits.

In 1939, wheat parity payments were made to farmers who complied with their wheat allotments. The parity payments were computed in the county office and a simple application was used. These applications were submitted to the State office, which scheduled the payments for disbursement by treasury check.

In the early years of the wheat allotment program we had overplantings and "hot wheat" cases. One farmer advertised in the local paper that he had "hot wheat" for sale to make "hot biscuits". In paying a wheat penalty payment, one farmer wrote on his check, "For -- damn foolishness".

The present county committee consists of Joe T. Gorzalka, Chairman, Willis Perkins, Vice-Chairman, and Avon Barney, Regular Member. Pete Jensen, County Agent, is an ex-officio member. Pete was County Agent in Johnson County during the early days of the programs and admits to starting George Gibbs, our present Farmer Fieldman, out as a field supervisor.

The present office force consists of Janet Kukuchka, County Office Manager; Gene Abernatha, Chief Clerk, and Marvin Shell, Performance Supervisor. Janet started working in the office in 1940 and has worked there continually ever since. She has been office manager since 1951.

\* \* \* \* \*





SUBLETTE COUNTY

1962 COUNTY COMMITTEE



Missing from the picture are Carl Urbigkit and Eugene Inloes, County Agents and ex-officio members of the County Committee.

Paul Hagenstein replaced Delbert Ball on the 1963 County Committee.

Lester Pape

Delbert Ball

Max Boroff, Chairman

OFFICE PERSONNEL



Woodrow L. Nelson, Office Manager

Dorothy E. Orgill, Chief Clerk





HISTORY OF SUBLETTE ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
September 6, 1962

When the Sublette County AAA Office was first organized, J. W. Brazzill, T. A. Brosman and Floyd Thompson were the committeemen. John F. Thompson was secretary. Robert Boulter and Donald Faler were county fieldmen, Boulter working as field supervisor. This office was in the Ray Wenz building now occupied by the Wyoming Automotive parts store. Later the office was moved to what is now known as Clark's Apartments. About 1940 it was moved to the Murphy Building (now known as the Drug Store Building). At that time John Bloom, Arnold Olson and Walter C. Yose were committeemen; with Robert Boulter as Secretary and Ruth Kelly, Madaline Lunbeck and Mary Harrower working as clerks. The office was called the PMA Office at that time.

In 1950 it was changed to PMA, in 1952 to ASC Office, and in 1962 ASCS Office.

About 1952 the ASC and SCS Offices were moved to the Forest Service Building for about two years. Then it was moved back to the Drug Store Building where it remained until June 1961 and it was moved to the present location, the Pinedale Implement and Hardware Building.

In 1952 the SCS took over the technical service of the ACProgram and has continued to do this service since that time.

The programs administered by the ASCS Office are the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Commodity Loan Program, the Wheat Allotment and Marketing Quota Program, the Wool Incentive Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Emergency Drought Livestock Feed Program, and the new Wheat Stabilization Program; also the Feed Grain Program.

The programs active in this county are the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program and the Wool Incentive Program.

Under the Agricultural Conservation Program, the conservation practices used most in the county are B-3, brush control; A-2, initial establishment of permanent grasses; and C-12, irrigation reorganization.

Since 1953, brush spraying has been done quite extensively in this county. An average of about 10,000 acres of sage brush has been sprayed each year in this county under the ACProgram. It is believed that this practice is the most economical way of improving range land, and as time goes by more of the operators are participating in this practice under this program.

Irrigation practices are also being used and are much needed in this county. As operators become better educated in better irrigation methods, these practices will become more popular.

An average of 75 operators participate in this program in the county each year.

There are about 43 operators in the county who receive incentive payments through the Wool Incentive Program in this county.

Sublette County -

Our present Committee is Max Boroff, Chairman; Lester Pape, Vice-Chairman; and Delbert J. Ball, Regular Member. Paul Hagenstein and George James are the alternate members. Woodrow Nelson is Office Manager and Dorothy Orgill, Chief Clerk.

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SWEETWATER COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE



John A. Wood  
Chairman

John F. Arambel  
Member

Berger A. Strand  
County Agent  
Ex-officio  
member

Carl A. Davis  
Member

OFFICE EMPLOYEES



Frances P. Reuter  
Program Clerk

Aaron W. Deneley  
Office Manager

Missing from this picture is Carolyn M. Shassetz who served as Program Clerk in 1962.





HISTORY OF SWEETWATER ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
June 20, 1962

While the extension service of the United States Department of Agriculture had an office in Green River as early as August, 1929, it is one of the infant offices of the USDA, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Ray B. Nordyke, a graduate of Iowa State college, was the first county agent, serving from August 1, 1929, to December 30, 1933. He was followed by William Duncan, a University of Wyoming graduate, from December 30, 1933, to September 16, 1944. During his service, the office was moved to Rock Springs, and Duncan then transferred to Fremont County.

The Department of Agriculture opened another office in Green River to serve farmers and ranchers of Sweetwater County, with its first records dated in October 1936. Vern V. McMurry of Eden and Alden D. White held temporary positions as county supervisors. In addition, Roy B. Perkins of Green River and L. W. Grandy and Floyd Henry of Eden Valley did considerable field work. A large amount of measuring and staking on range improvement practices was done during the early years of the office.

The name was changed in 1938 to become the Agricultural Conservation Administration office (ACA). The early agricultural conservation program in the county recorded 85 applications for payments totaling \$8,862 in 1936; 109 for \$7,527 in 1937, and 11 for \$5,915 in 1938.

In 1941 Mary Kourbelas of Green River was hired as clerk in the office and William Cox of McKinnon, Guy Rife of Rock Springs, Alden D. White and C. N. Mershon were active in field work. One hundred forty-one farmers took part in the ACP program, receiving \$23,284. Worksheet wheat farms totaled 56 in 1941, with 18 wheat allotments.

1942 was a war year, when a war board was set up. ACP payments dropped to \$9,308 with 120 participants.

Betty Nielson of Green River took over the office work in 1943. Sylvester Phillips, who took the field worker's position at that time, presently is performance supervisor in Uinta County. Wheat marketing quotas were suspended and farmers were urged to increase plantings. War board activities included control of farm machinery, fuel, tires and other rationed commodities. There were 111 applications for payment under the ACP program for \$19,182.

Office work during 1944 was in the hands of Eileen S. Longpre, Bessie Pulham and Jacqueline Clark, all of Green River. Phillips was field worker, with Orson Behunin, Carl Meyer and Alden D. White working with others as committeemen. In January, 1944, the office became known as the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, commonly called the Triple A. The office was moved to Rock Springs April 13. Payments amounted to \$40,515 with 119 participants.

Harley Roath, a graduate of the University of Wyoming, took over as county agent in 1944, serving from September 16 until July 1, 1948, when he resigned to accept a position in Montana.

In 1945, Bessie Pulham and Jacqueline Clark did the office work and Sylvester Phillips was field employe. Sam Megeath of Rock Springs,

Sweetwater County -

Orson Behunin and Cliff Anderson of McKinnon and Zeb Stout of Eden appeared often on the payroll in 1945. The war board was still active and 109 participants in the ACP program received \$34,808.

Office help in 1946 included Bessie Pulham and Dorothe Brinegar and Phillips continued as field worker. The more active committeemen in 1946 were George A. Chilton, William Logan and Lee Roy Brinegar of Rock Springs and Robert Greig of Eden. Cost-sharing under the ACP program for 1946 was \$42,191, paid to 84 producers.

Dorothe Brinegar was office manager in 1947 with Sylvester Phillips doing the field work, assisted by Sam Megeath. Active committeemen were L. W. Grandy of Farson and Cliff Anderson of McKinnon. Ninety-four operators earned \$38,045 of cost-sharing under the ACP program.

In 1948 Warren T. Ferrell became the new county agent. A graduate of the University of Wyoming, he had been an assistant county agent in Big Horn County. He continued as Sweetwater county agent until August 15, 1957.

Dorothe Brinegar was office manager in 1948 with Sylvester Phillips as field worker. Active committeemen were John Briggs and Cliff Anderson of McKinnon, Albert J. Angelovic of Rock Springs and Vern V. McMurry of Eden. In October, 1948, the name of the office was changed to the Production Marketing Administration of PMA office. In the ACP program 73 producers received \$12,204 in cost-sharing.

Dorothe Brinegar continued as office manager in 1949 and Sylvester Phillips worked until September and terminated six years with the office. Sam Megeath took over the work as field employee. The active committeemen in 1949 were Cliff Anderson, John Briggs and Melroy Luke of McKinnon, Albert J. Angelovic of Rock Springs and John A. Wood of Eden. Cost-sharing in the 1949 ACP program totaled \$16,312 to 63 producers.

In 1950 Dorothe Brinegar continued to manage the office until July, when Helen Angelovic took over. Sam Megeath of Rock Springs continued as field employee. Active committeemen were Albert Angelovic, John A. Wood, Melroy Luke and Cliff Anderson.

Sam Megeath worked as field employee until June, 1951, when Robert K. Francis of Rock Springs took over. Helen Angelovic continued as office manager. Active in committee work were Albert Angelovic, Cliff Anderson, Robert Greig and Melroy Luke. Sixty-five operators were paid \$20,383 in cost-sharing in the ACP program.

Through 1952 Helen Angelovic continued as office manager and Robert K. Francis as field employee. Committeemen who were active were Cliff Anderson, John A. Wood, Melroy Luke and George Chilton. The office was moved to its present location in the West Theatre building October 15, 1952. Under the cost-sharing plan of the ACP, 45 operators earned \$12,386.

In 1953 Helen Angelovic still was office manager and Robert K. Francis, field employee. The county committee included John A. Wood, Cliff Anderson



Sweetwater County -

and George A. Chilton. Fifty-seven operators were paid \$15,935 in ACP cost-sharing. Serious drought conditions made a drought program necessary. Ninety-five carloads of corn and 1,400,000 pounds of pellets were handled by the office.

Helen Angelovic was office manager until June, 1954, when Aaron W. Deneley, the present office manager took over the job. Robert K. Francis worked as field employee until March 31. Soil Conservation Service took over all the technical work of the ACP program. The county committee members for 1954 were John Arambel, Cliff Anderson and John A. Wood. In February the office name was changed to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office. The ACP program was at a low ebb with 29 persons earning \$7,720 cost-sharing. Drought conditions continued making a 1954 Drought Emergency Feed Program necessary. Over 16 million pounds of drought feed were handled through this office.

From 1955 through 1958 Aaron W. Deneley continued as office manager and the county committee had the same members, John A. Wood of Eden, William Allen of Rock Springs and Melroy Luke of McKinnon.

The Drought Emergency Feed Program continued in 1955 with the office handling  $15\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds of drought feed. Under the new wool program, \$297,237 in incentive payments were paid to wool growers. Payments of \$9,095 were made to 29 operators for conservation work done under the ACP program.

In 1956,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds of drought feed were handled under the 1956 Drought Emergency Feed Program. Incentive payments paid to lamb and wool growers amounted to \$34,598. Fifty-seven operators received \$22,240 cost-sharing in the ACP program.

Berger A. Strand replaced Warren T. Ferrell as county agent August 15, 1957. Ferrell transferred to Crook County, ACP payments amounted to \$22,292 to 55 producers. Very little wool was sold during the year and incentive payments on lambs and wool were only \$83,308.

Wool and lamb incentive payments amounted to \$643,096 in 1958 and ACP payments to 45 producers were \$29,493.

The county committee for 1959 and 1960 was made up of John A. Wood, Melroy Luke and Ernest Spicer. Aaron W. Deneley was office manager both years.

ACP cost-sharing was up in 1959 to \$42,212 with 60 producers receiving payments. Wool and lamb incentive payments amounted to \$319,121.

In 1960, ACP cost-sharing to 47 producers totaled \$20,499. Incentive payments under the wool program came to \$341,945. Drought conditions made the 1960-61 Livestock Feed Program necessary, with 37 applications for feed and 1,650,000 pounds of grain sold.

The office manager in 1961 was Aaron W. Deneley and the county committee, Emmett Griffin Jr., John A. Wood and Melroy Luke. The name of the office



Sweetwater County -

was changed in July, 1961, to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. ACP cost-sharing was made to 45 producers in the amount of \$32,876. The Livestock Feed Program continued for 1961-62, with 62 applications approved and 6,540,000 pounds of grain sold.

Office manager for 1962 is Aaron W. Deneley and the county committee, John A. Wood of Eden, Carl A. Davis of McKinnon and John F. Arambel of Rock Springs.

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TETON COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND PERSONNEL



L to R - Marie G. Teuscher, Chief Clerk; John A. Wilson, County Office Manager; John M. Wilson, Chairman County Committee; Wayne W. Ricks, County Committeeman; and Phil Lucas, County Committeeman.

Missing from the picture is Nels L. Dahlquist, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee.



HISTORY OF TETON ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
October 12, 1962

Teton County Agricultural producers did not participate directly in the National Agricultural Program during the period of 1933 to 1936 as there evidently was no need for such emergency measures as: (1) Wheat Control Program, to make cash payments to farmers who voluntarily signed up to reduce their wheat. (2) Corn-Hog Program, to reduce surpluses of corn and hogs. (3) Drought area purchasing by the United States Department of Agriculture. Cattle and sheep were purchased and killed because there was no market for them and ranchers could not ship them to market and realize anything above the freight.

When Congress recognized the need for all the people of the nation to share in the cost of protecting the most vital natural resource, our farm and ranch lands, the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936 was passed making appropriated funds available and to handle farm programs and emergencies as assigned by the Secretary of Agriculture or Congress.

This Act created need for elected Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committees, County and Community, to administer all assigned farm programs. Farmer names of these Committees were: Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA), Agricultural Conservation Association (ACA) and Production and Marketing Administration (PMA).

First elected Agricultural Conservation Association Committee: J. I. Wilson, J. Wallace Moulton, Willis Winegar, Elias Wilson and E. J. Ward. These men carried out their duties authorized by this Act, conducting their Agriculture business through the County Welfare Office in a little log structure behind the Court House, Jackson, Wyoming. Lee Johnson, Sr. was employed as Secretary-Treasurer and Field Supervisor. June Taylor was employed as the first Clerk. Assigned programs: Agricultural Conservation Program, Range Conservation Program, Sugar Beet Program, Crop Insurance Program, Wheat Loan Program and Crop Parity Payment Program. The only active programs were the Agricultural Conservation Program and Parity Program.

W. M. Christensen, Director of the County Welfare Office was appointed Secretary-Treasurer to the County Agricultural Committee. Three, three-men crews each headed by the tableman Edward H. Lloyd, John Hammond both from Jackson, Wyoming and Byron Christensen from Driggs, Idaho were hired to map and compute acreage on all operating units; then about 254 worksheet farms and 211 operating farms and ranches. Some of each of these crews used salaries from this work to continue or start college. Ed Lloyd, John A. Wilson and Lee Johnson, Jr., all of one crew, went to our own University of Wyoming.

John A. Wilson was appointed as Secretary and Treasurer to the County Agricultural Conservation Association Committee. A divorce was made between the County Welfare Office and the County ASCS Office.

Our office was moved and maintained in the old Ideal Lodge, located west of the famous Wort Hotel and on the same acreage as the now famous Flame Motel, Proprietors Mr. and Mrs. Homar C. Richards. The office remained in this one room Motel unit until space was available in the new Jackson Drug building.



Teton County -

After this time this office carried out some responsibilities with farmers and ranchers for the Extension Service. This arrangement was made because at this time the County Agents, when appointed in a County, were the Secretary-Treasurer to the Agricultural Committees.

During this short life of Agricultural Farm Programs administered by locally elected farmers and ranchers \$24,790 was paid to an average of 78 producers each year.

The United States went to war and the American farmers had accepted the gigantic job of producing the food for not only the people of the United States, but also for her allies all over the world.

Many new programs and responsibilities were assigned at this time. Mainly: Acreage and Production Goals; Commodity Loan Programs; War Board and Special Service Activities; and special payments were offered potato and truck crop producers for increasing their 1943 production.

In these later programs the Committee had charge of authorizing distribution of Agricultural machinery, tires, fuel and other rationed commodities. The Board also set food goals, helped find farm labor, tried to stimulate the buying of bonds, and did other work incidental to the war programs.

Greater emphasis was placed on those practices that would save and improve the soil, make possible the best use of water supplies, increase range and pasture forage, prevent wind and water erosion, and by doing these things, increase production at once. As in the past, farmers were offered payment only for actual performance of approved practices. Routine practices and those which would be carried out in desired volume without payment were not eligible for payment.

Because of the additional work load placed on the ASCS office the late James M. Robertson was employed as performance supervisor.

John A. Wilson left to join the armed forces and Mr. Robertson managed the office (which was changed to PMA) with occasional Chief Clerks to July 1956, except for some months in 1955-56 when he and the office were under direct supervision of Robert Boulter, Pinedale, Wyoming, who was also ASCS County Office Manager for the Sublette County ASC Committee. This arrangement, however, did not work well for the producers or Committees in Teton County.

During this period about \$85,154 was paid to an average of 130 producers each year. Also, 728 applications were acted on under the War Board and Special Services Activities Program.

War emergency programs were dropped and new programs and responsibilities assigned were: The 1946 Potato Purchase Program; Purchase Order Program; Price Support Program; Farm Storage Facility Loan Program; Emergency Feed Program; National Wool Program; Drought Emergency Program; Wheat Allotment and Marketing Quotas; and the School Lunch Program, which in Wyoming was undertaken for the first time by a State Agency, the Department of Education.

Teton County -

The County Agricultural office expenses were cut considerably when the County was reorganized from a four Community County with fifteen (15) elected committeemen to the present two Community County. Operating farms and ranches had been reduced from about 211 in 1933 to the present estimated 98. This tremendous decrease in privately owned lands was due to eastern interests buying up ranches in the northern part of Jackson Hole and the establishment of the Jackson Hole Monument in 1943. The Snake River Land Company lands and the monument lands became a part of the Grand Teton National Park in 1950, thus leaving only about 64 operating units in Jackson Hole. This was the primary reason for only two Communities; Jackson and Alta.

The Soil Conservation Service was assigned certain responsibilities of a technical nature in the Agricultural Conservation Program, thus causing a marriage between ASCS and SCS and our office as well as the Teton and Jackson Soil Conservation District office took space in the Nelson Apartment Building.

This arrangement was much better for farmers and ranchers participating in one or more of the National Programs and with the State Soil Conservation Districts because all their business with either office and especially on ACPProgram could be taken care of very rapidly until 1960 when the Soil Conservation District office was moved several blocks away to the Huff Building.

More of the workload was removed from the ASCS Office when the County Commissioners secured through the State of Wyoming, University of Wyoming, and Federal Extension Service Nels Dahlquist as the first County Agent in Teton County. The Cooperative Extension Service is the official educational arm of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the field and helps in getting program information to farmers and the public.

Bryce Allred, a State Office County Office Manager trainee, was appointed to supervise the daily operation of the office and do the field performance work until he left to work in the Lincoln County ASCS Office.

Once more John A. Wilson was employed as the ASCS County Office Manager.

Cumulative total payments and loans made since the inauguration of the Agricultural Programs in Teton County and balance outstanding on loans as of January 1, 1962.

Conservation practices .....	\$ 610,666
Price Support Loans .....	100,149
Balance outstanding .....	\$ 964.00
Farm Storage Loans .....	14,076
Balance outstanding .....	\$ 937.00
Soil Bank .....	12,483
Wool Program .....	11,472
Potato Purchases .....	3,202
Parity Payments .....	268
Payments to the Soil Conservation Service for Technical Services .....	12,153

The County Wheat acreage allotment has increased from 411 acres in 1938 to 674 acres in 1961.

Potato acreage has increased from 98 acres in 1939 to 302 acres in 1961.

Programs administered by the ASCS office are: Agricultural Conservation Program; Price Support Program; Feed Grain Program; Wheat Stabilization Program; National Wool Act Program; Acreage Allotment and Marketing Quotas; Farm Storage Facility Loans; Sugar Beet Program; Soil Bank Program; Emergency Drought Livestock Feed Program.

Committees elected and responsible for the programs:

County Committee

John M. Wilson, Chairman  
Wayne W. Ricks, Vice-Chairman  
Phil Lucas, Regular Member  
Nels Dahlquist, Ex-Officio Member

Elmer Bowles, 1st Alternate  
William A. Wilson, 2nd Alternate

Alta Community

Elmer Bowles, Chairman  
Elwin Schofield, Vice-Chairman  
Fritz E. Kaufman, Regular Member  
David W. Green, 1st Alternate  
Ross Rigby, 2nd Alternate

Jackson Community

Earl Hardeman, Chairman  
Arthur G. Brown, Vice-Chairman  
Warren M. Robertson, Regular Member  
William Wilson, 1st Alternate  
Ralph Moulton, 2nd Alternate

Present employees of the Committee, to help carry out the assigned responsibilities of day to day operations of the ASCS office, are: John A. Wilson, County Office Manager; Marie Teuscher, Chief Clerk; and in the spring one rodman, usually an explorer Scout from the Alta Community, is hired to assist with acreage measurements.

\* \* \* \* \*



UINTA COUNTY

1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES



Not shown in the picture is Max M. Wall, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee.

L to R - Flora Salmela, County Office Manager; Sylvester Phillips, Performance Supervisor; Delmar Gross, County Committeeman; Francis Bakalar, County Committeeman; and Glen Martin, Chairman County Committee.

1962 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES



Back row L to R - Sylvester Phillips, Performance Supervisor; Loyd L. Jarman, Chairman County Committee; Eugene C. Taylor, County Committeeman; and Clarence L. Lowham, County Committeeman. Front row: Sherman T. Gustin, State Committeeman; and Flora Salmela, County Office Manager.

Missing from picture is Max M. Wall, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee.





HISTORY OF UINTA ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
September 19, 1962

The program originated in Uinta County in the fall of 1936. A meeting was held to elect Community Committeemen. The Community Committee elected a county committee of three members who took office on January 1, 1937. Elected to the first county committee were: Lester Crompton, John W. Field, and either Carl P. Dahlquist or a Mr. Davidson (no records available to determine which one, or Mr. Davidson's first name). Dan Ingram was County Agent.

Lester Crompton was appointed to serve on the Wyoming State Committee starting January 1, 1939. He served continuously in the capacity of Chairman until 1952. To the best of his knowledge, other State committeemen in 1939 were Roy Moore of Douglas, Heber Tibbets of Lovell, and Adrian Shoemaker of Torrington.

One of the major jobs at the beginning of the program was plane tabling of land, listing legal description and crops. These maps, made in 1937 and 1938 show Emil C. Gradert as County Supervisor and the majority of them show George W. Lowham as plane table operator. Mr. Gradert, a highly respected citizen and outstanding surveyor, has since passed away. George Lowham is presently head of the ACP at the State level.

Excerpts from county committee minutes during the years 1940 through 1943 show interesting notations concerning the program during that time. George Lowham attended some of these meetings in the capacity of District Fieldman.

In the early 1940's the noxious weed program was applicable. It was evidently required that operators control noxious weeds if they were to be eligible for cost-sharing under the AAA program.

On November 4, 1940, a special meeting was held for the purpose of making a survey of the county on its need for a cotton mattress program for the low income farm families. Representatives from the following organizations were named to serve on the committee:

County AAA Committee and Association Secretary  
Extension Service Agent  
Home Demonstration Agent  
Farm Security Administration  
County Welfare Board  
County Board of Commissioners  
County Farm Organizations  
County Health Nurse  
Relief Society

Cotton was ordered and on May 20, 1941 minutes of the meeting show a total of 57 mattresses had been made. A charge of \$1.00 per mattress was collected to help defray cost of materials. In early 1942 the people who had made mattresses were given the opportunity of making comforters from the cotton on hand.

Uinta County -

In 1941 a rodent control practice was in effect and the committee established July 15 as the deadline date for which payment could be made for applying poisoned oats.

Renovation appeared to be a much utilized practice under the AAA program during the early 1940's. Potato allotments were evident in 1941 and a survey was made of commercial potato producers growing more than three acres of potatoes during the years 1939, 1940 and 1941. The compliance supervisor was instructed to contact the 18 known producers to determine whether or not a commercial potato allotment should be set up for them in 1942. Allotments were established and records reveal measurement of potato acreages in 1942.

Community committeemen played a very important role in initiating the program. They personally contacted their neighbors and explained the purpose of the program and how they could participate. All non-cooperators were individually contacted from time to time. In January 1942, it was recorded there were 67 non-compliance farms out of the 317 operators signed up for the 1941 program. This showed a decrease of 20 non-compliance farms over 1940.

In 1941 minutes of the meeting held on September 17, reveal that Mr. Adrian C. Shoemaker, Chairman of the Wyoming Agricultural Defense Board, would be in Uinta County on October 13, relative to organizing a county Defense Board. The board was organized and a program was set up to collect all the scrap iron in the county. Ranchers were urged to repair all serviceable machinery and use it as long as possible. Emphasis was placed on buying War Bonds. 1942 showed a shortage of labor due to so many men being drafted. Tires, gasoline and farm machinery were placed on the ration list. A War Board Clerk was hired at a salary of \$4.00 per day. This was later raised to \$4.50 per day.

In 1942 and 1943 Commodity Credit Wheat was ordered for sale in the county. Carloads of wheat were distributed to wheat feeders at a nominal charge.

During 1943, the program was at work to meet new war time conditions. The wheat program was changed to meet the record breaking consumption of wheat. Marketing quotas were suspended and farmers were urged to increase planting wherever it would not interfere with the production of more vital war crops. A deduction was made from the farm wheat payment for failure to plant at least 90 percent of the farm's war crop goal unless such planting was prevented by abnormal weather. A special payment was offered potato and truck crop producers for increasing their 1943 production. Emphasis was placed on those practices that would save and protect the soil. Farmers and ranchers answered this call for increased production in spite of a shortage of labor.

During the early part of the program, the County Extension Agent was Secretary to the county committee. In March 1943, the AAA office separated their office from the Extension Service and moved to a very small office on Main Street. The office was later moved to the second floor of the Federal Building and then to the first floor when the Land Office moved to Cheyenne. This same space is still occupied and is directly across the hall from the



Uinta County -

Extension office. Bert Despain, County Agent, submitted his resignation as secretary of the county AAA committee on March 15, 1943.

In November of 1943, minutes of the meeting reveal that 150 dairy producers in the county had received subsidy payment for milk and butterfat sold during the month of October. Approximately \$1800 was paid to producers.

A full-time County Supervisor, William Salmela, was employed in the latter part of 1941 at a salary of \$4.00 per day while working in the office and \$6.00 per day for field work. The office clerk received \$4.50 per day and an office assistant was to be hired for 40¢ per hour. Other than for a short time in the position of Farmer Fieldman, Mr. Salmela worked as supervisor until his death on May 8, 1951.

Albert Bluemel was hired as supervisor in 1951 and resigned in early 1952. Sylvester Phillips was hired and started on July 1, 1952 and still holds the position as Performance Supervisor. Mr. Phillips was initiated into the position of Supervisor on October 5, 1941 when he worked in the county for a short time. He later went to work as supervisor in the Sweetwater County office where he worked for a few years.

It was interesting to note that during the 1940's stress was put on requesting practices under the program for conservation of water. This is still one of the most needed practices. A great deal of progress has been made along this line, but we still have a long way to go. During the early part of the program a large portion of the cost-sharing went for construction of stockwater dams and pits on rangeland. This practice contributed greatly to the use of rangeland which was without a water supply entirely during certain seasons of the year. Livestock was trailing miles to sources of water. Proper headgates were installed, which was a valued improvement over sod, hay and manure dams for controlling water. Records show that in 1946, 48 farms constructed stockwater pits or dams completing 124 structures. Ditch enlargement or reorganization was carried out on 185 farms. During this time interest was being created for construction of irrigation reservoirs.

Much planning and numerous problems have to be solved before actual construction of an irrigation reservoir is a reality. Several rather large reservoirs have been constructed over the past years and plans have been in the making for others. Completed recently was the Woodruff Narrows reservoir at a cost of \$610,000. Although this dam stores water in Uinta County, no ranchers in the county are receiving water from it. However, ranchers above the dam are indirectly benefited and congratulate the people who have worked industriously over a period of many years to achieve their goal.

The major portion of our irrigation water sources head in our neighboring State of Utah and a great deal of time is required in getting storage permission problems ironed out. The following case history of one irrigation dam represents the usual amount of problems encountered before construction begins.

The Sulphur Creek Dam project, located about 10 miles south of Evanston, actually began in 1949 when a number of Bear River ranchers organized an



Uinta County -

association for the purpose of promoting the construction of a reservoir. They elected Clarence L. Lowham, President; John M. Peart, Vice-President; and William Salmela, Secretary-Treasurer. Of the original three officers only Clarence Lowham survives. Out of the forty ranchers who showed an interest in the project at the start, only twenty-six followed through on the project and they constitute the shareholders of the corporation.

In 1949 the association hired Mr. Emil C. Gradert, a licensed surveyor and engineer who had an enviable record of designing the great majority of successful reservoirs in southwest Wyoming, to design a dam in compliance with statutory requirements and to do the necessary engineering work to secure a permit to construct a dam at the site where the present structure stands. The application for a reservoir permit was filed in the office of the State Engineer who approved it on February 20, 1950. Estimates of the cost of construction were obtained and it appeared then that the dam could be constructed for about \$45,000.

The lack of a Bear River Compact and the reluctance of an appropriator who claimed a prior right to the use of the waters of Bear River to give assurance that they would not interfere with the construction and operation of a dam on Sulphur Creek made the members of the association reluctant to proceed with the project. In 1952, because of discouragement from certain sources, interest in the project dropped to a new low.

Subsequently great progress was made in the making of a Bear River Compact and in 1956 new interest was kindled in the project. New officers were chosen and the Natural Resources Board was contacted regarding availability of loan funds. The Natural Resources Board sent out an engineer to investigate and advised that detailed engineering studies of the project were necessary to determine the type of structure to be built and the cost of the project. The Natural Resources Board recommended an engineering firm (J. T. Banner & Associates) which was employed to do the preliminary engineering and prepare plans and specifications for the sum of \$3500.

Options for the purchase of right-of-way were secured and plans and specifications were prepared and submitted by the engineers. A loan of \$100,000 was obtained from Water Resources Board.

Construction of the dam required purchase of land, relocation of a county road, construction of fences along relocated county road, relocation of a telephone line, attorney fees, stenographic fees and the hiring of a private engineer to supervise construction of the dam. Total cost to the 26 operators for the period from September 7, 1956 through construction of the dam amounted to \$100,318.54. ACP cost-shared in the amount of \$42,000 on the project.

In the latter part of June 1959 during a very heavy rainstorm, the officers of the Sulphur Creek Board became concerned about the amount of water running through the spillway of the dam. Close watch was kept on it and realizing it was going to cause considerable damage to the spillway, they opened the outlet valve of the dam to release the flow through the spillway. During the night the force of water coming out of the outlet pipe did considerable damage to the outlet structure. It was necessary to hire men

Uinta County -

and equipment to repair this damage at a cost of \$1300. During 1960 they did additional work on the outlet and spent \$500 for riprap on the spillway.

The Board of Directors did an outstanding job in carrying this project through to completion and the twenty-six operators interested in the dam feel the project was well worth the effort since they now have water available when they need it most. The remainder of the 40 operators who at first showed interest, but who did not avail themselves of the opportunity of being included in the project have fully realized the benefits derived by the twenty-six operators who carried on and they have made application for an enlargement on the dam.

Since the Sulphur Creek Reservoir has been completed, the Fish and Wildlife Service has kept it well stocked with fish. A group of Evanston people have formed a club known as the Evanston Boat Club. The club leases land at the reservoir from Eli R. Cornelison for \$50.00 per year and considerable work has been done by this group with the assistance of other civic organizations toward building a recreation area. Hamburger stands, rest rooms, and boating facilities have been installed. Shrubs and trees are being planted and the facilities are used by many local and out-of-town people. It is seldom that one does not see boats and fishermen at the dam.

Mr. Cornelison's wife, Loretta, passed away on May 28, 1957 from cancer. In leasing the land to the Boat Club, Mr. Cornelison requires that the \$50.00 lease money be paid to the cancer fund each year. The Boat Club also contributes 50 percent of their membership dues to the fund. In 1960, the recreation area was officially named "The Loretta Cornelison Recreation Area" in her memory.

It is the ASCS policy in Uinta County to work closely with any group of ranchers interested in water storage facilities and assistance is given whenever and wherever possible in the preliminary work required prior to actual construction as well as cost-sharing to the highest possible extent for construction of these projects.

Ranchers in Uinta County are chiefly interested in cattle and sheep raising. Some of them grow small grains, chiefly for their own use. In 1949, three operators had price support loans on barley. In 1950 there was one loan made. Since then there have been no loans.

Since 1951, we have had two storage facility loans which have both been paid off. We have ten wheat farms for 1963 with a total allotment of 91.1 acres.

Over the period of the past few years we have had numerous set backs due to severe drought conditions. A drought program was approved for the county for the fall and winter of 1955-1956 and for part of the county in 1956-1957. During the fall and winter of 1960-1961 and 1961-1962 the Livestock Feed Program was in effect.

We have had an average of around 210 producers participating in the Wool Program since it was started in 1955.



Uinta County -

The number of farms has decreased in the county. Some of the same operators listed as participating in the 1940's are still operating their units. Some have been taken over by younger generations and some of the smaller units have been sold to larger operators.

In 1952, the technical service of the ACProgram was delegated to the Soil Conservation Service. There is one organized SCS District which comprises the eastern half of the county. Richard Bakalar is the SCS Technician.

Those employed on a steady basis in the Uinta County ASCS Office at present are: Flora Salmela, Office Manager and Sylvester Phillips, Performance Supervisor. Our very efficient county committee consists of three members, namely; Loyd Lee Jarman, Chairman; Clarence Lowham, Vice Chairman; and Wesley Lowham, Regular Member. Wesley Lowham became a county committeeman on June 12, when Eugene C. Taylor submitted his resignation to file for county commissioner. Max M. Wall, County Agent is ex-officio member.

Office and Field personnel in Uinta County find it a rewarding experience to be associated with the ASCS organization and feel there are no finer people to work with than our rural people in Uinta County, State office personnel and other ASCS employees with whom we come in contact throughout the organization.

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WASHAKIE COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE



Harold Warner  
Member

George Ogg, Jr.  
Member

Robert C. Hinkle  
Chairman

OFFICE EMPLOYEES



Seated L to R - Angeline O. Loveland,  
Program and Administrative Clerk;  
Josephine R. Iversen, County Office  
Manager; and standing is Donald M.  
Fausset, Performance Supervisor.

Missing from pictures are Jack P.  
Lowry, County Agent and ex-officio  
member of the County Committee and  
Edwina L. Rochon, Clerk in 1962





HISTORY OF WASHAKIE ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
September 4, 1962

This year, 1962, the United States Department of Agriculture is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The Washakie County ASCS Office, being a branch of the Department of Agriculture has compiled some of the history and points of interest of the Washakie County ASC Office, that might be of interest to the people in Washakie County.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office (ASCS) was originally called the Agricultural Adjustment Agency (AAA).

The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of 1933 was established to reduce surpluses of various commodities of which wheat was one of the major commodities in surplus.

Drought conditions in the country soon depleted the stockpiles of the commodities which had been in surplus, and made allotments and other controls no longer necessary. A new Agricultural Conservation Program was established in 1936, and soil conservation was its primary goal. The purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program is to cost-share with the farmers in carrying out needed practices on their farms. The farmers usually bear about half of the total cost of the practice and the Government bears the balance of the cost of the practice. The purpose of the program is to conserve our land for future generations.

Mr. Clyde Johnson, County Agent for Washakie County was treasurer, and Mrs. Elsie Faure was clerk for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) county committee. The office was originally located in the court house. Agricultural Conservation Payments made in 1936 amounted to \$48,241. In 1937 the Sugar Act was passed which established quotas for sugar and Marketing Agreement Act regulating the flow to market of produced supplies were passed in 1937. The first sugar beet payments were made in Washakie County in 1937 and amounted to \$185,875. Payments made under the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program amounted to \$56,129.

In 1938, the sugar payments totaled \$208,303, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$10,593.

Payments made under the sugar program in 1939 amounted to \$207,161, and cost-sharing under the 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program amounted to \$21,448. Elmo Graff joined the staff as County Supervisor in 1939.

The Agriculture, and Range Conservation Programs were combined in Wyoming for the first time in 1940, and it was felt that by combining these programs it helped the farmers and ranchers in Wyoming see that the problems on the farms and ranches are very closely related, and a closer cooperation must be obtained from both farmers and ranchers before the problems of either one can be solved.

In 1940 the sugar beet payments totaled \$249,761, and the cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program was \$21,522.

Washakie County -

In 1941, the sugar beet payments totaled \$158,343, and the cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program was \$27,738.

In 1942, the sugar payments totaled \$173,308, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$51,920.

In 1943, the sugar payments totaled \$140,276, and cost-sharing under the Conservation Program totaled \$67,109.

In 1944, the sugar payments totaled \$134,287, and cost-sharing under the Conservation Program totaled \$62,483.

In 1945, the sugar payments totaled \$150,177, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$48,054.

The name of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency was changed in 1945, to the Agricultural Conservation Association (ACA). The location of the ACA Office was moved from the County Agent's Office to South 7th Street - the building now occupied by Louis Quick Lunch.

John Stroud became the County Agent in 1945.

In 1946, the sugar beet payments totaled \$152,397 and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$66,624. Paul Drake replaced John Stroud as County Agent in 1946.

In 1947, the sugar beet payments amounted to \$179,949, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program amounted to \$45,422. Mrs. Elsie Faure resigned in January 1947, after 10 years of service, and Mrs. Josephine Iversen was hired by the Washakie County ACA Committee to replace Mrs. Faure. Elmo Graff, County Supervisor resigned in February of 1947, after 9 years of service and was replaced by James L. Shipley as County Supervisor. Paul Drake resigned as County Agent, and was replaced by Jack Lowry, who is the County Agent at the present time.

In 1948, sugar beet payments amounted to \$125,755, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program was \$26,972. Commodity loans were made under the Price Support Program on beans, barley, wheat and oats in 1948, in the amount of \$410,544. There was no market for these commodities at harvest time that year. Jack Loveland was hired in February to replace James Shipley, who resigned as County Supervisor to go into farming.

In 1949, sugar beet payments amounted to \$132,090, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$29,515. Commodity loans were made in the amount of \$362,954 on beans, barley, oats and flaxseed. Storage Facility Loan Program was added to the program, and a total of \$9,462 was loaned for the construction of new storage facilities for 31,840 bushels of storage, to be used for grain produced on the farm on which they were constructed. These loans could be made up to 80 percent of the out-of-the-pocket cost of the granary. Jack Loveland left the county office and was hired as Farmer Fieldman of the Northwest Area by the Wyoming State Production and Marketing Committee. Terrill Gibbons was hired to replace Jack Loveland



Washakie County -

as County Supervisor, and Richard Soller as Field Employee.

In 1950, the sugar payments totaled \$160,414, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$44,248. Commodity loans were made under the Price Support Program in the amount of \$140,643 on beans, barley and oats.

The name of the Washakie County Agricultural Conservation Association (ACA) was changed to the Production and Marketing Administration (PMA).

In 1951, the sugar payments totaled \$180,382, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation payments amounted to \$33,145. Commodity loans were made in the amount of \$92,752 on beans and barley under the 1951 Price Support Program. Multiple Crop Insurance Program was added to the programs to be administered by the county committee; there were 83 policies in force the first year. The county office was moved from South 7th Street to 1018 Big Horn Avenue in 1951. Richard Soller left the PMA Office to join the air force.

In 1952, the sugar payments totaled \$196,285 and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation payments amounted to \$31,914. Commodity loans made under the Price Support Program amounted to \$58,477 on beans and barley.

In 1953, the sugar payments totaled \$248,530 and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$24,544. Commodity loans made under the Price Support Program on beans totaled \$83,566. The name of the county office was changed from the Production and Marketing Administration (PMA) to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC).

In 1954, the sugar beet payments totaled \$246,096 and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$24,461. Commodity loans were made on beans under the Price Support Program in the amount of \$191,799.

The National Wool Act of 1954 was developed by wool grower representatives, the Administration and the Congress to handle the special problem facing the domestic wool industry. Under the Act, it was the declared policy of Congress to encourage an annual production of 300 million pounds of shorn wool - about one-third more than was being produced at that time - as a measure for national security and in the promotion of the general economic welfare.

The Act provides for an incentive price to encourage larger production. This is accomplished by means of payments to growers to bring their income from wool up to the incentive level, and in that way not affect the competitive position of wool with other fibers in the open market.

Amounts equal to 70 percent of the duties collected on imports of wool and wool manufacturers are appropriated for financing the payments. In this way, the present tariff is continued and the duties used to compensate wool growers for the higher tariff needed to adequately protect the industry. The marketing year started April 1, 1954, and ended March 31, 1955. Payments were made in July of 1955 which amounted to \$190,912 for shorn wool and \$55,037 for payment on unshorn lambs.



Washakie County -

In 1955, sugar beet payments totaled \$247,388 and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$33,555. Commodity loans were made under the Price Support Program in the amount of \$36,123 on beans and barley. In August of 1955, Terrill Gibbons resigned as Performance Supervisor to become salesman for the Fausset Implement Company. Keith Ruby replaced Terrill as Performance Supervisor. In March of 1956, Keith Ruby resigned to become a spot checker for the Wyoming State ASC Committee. Alan Neves was hired to replace Keith Ruby as Performance Supervisor.

In 1956, sugar beet payments were \$215,824 and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$43,360. Commodity loans under the Price Support Program on beans totaled \$19,673. Shorn Wool Payments were \$174,894, and payments for unshorn lambs were \$28,261.

In 1957, sugar beet payments totaled \$277,882, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$38,685. Commodity loans under the Price Support Program on beans totaled \$43,749. Shorn wool payments totaled \$24,681, and payments for unshorn lambs were \$12,273. Gladys Lowe was hired in January as clerk in the county office.

In 1958, sugar beet payments totaled \$286,325, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$54,973. Commodity loans on beans under the price support program totaled \$64,111. Shorn wool payments totaled \$247,727, and payments for unshorn lambs were \$49,686. Edwina Rochon was hired as clerk to replace Gladys Lowe, who moved with her family to Casper.

In 1959, sugar payments totaled \$272,801, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$35,296. Commodity loans on beans under the Price Support Program totaled \$18,387. Shorn wool payments totaled \$153,391, and payments for unshorn lambs were \$38,519.

In 1960, sugar payments totaled \$271,181 and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$50,045. Commodity loans on beans under the Price Support Program totaled \$843. Shorn wool payments totaled \$124,766, and payments for Unshorn Lambs were \$43,051. Alan Neves resigned in March of 1960 to start farming in the Burlington area, and Donald Fausset was hired to replace Alan as Performance Supervisor.

In 1961, sugar payments totaled \$310,295, and cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program totaled \$37,913. Commodity loans on beans under the Price Support Program totaled \$186,252. Shorn wool payments were \$135,974, and payments for unshorn lambs were \$40,661.

These programs have all been administered by farmer elected committees throughout the years which we feel have done a very good job, and have tried to be fair in the administration of all programs.

The present County ASC Committee is: Robert C. Hinkle, Chairman; Harold Warner, Ten Sleep, Vice-Chairman, and George Ogg, Jr., Regular Member. The office personnel consists of Josephine Iversen, County Office Manager, Edwina Rochon, Clerk, and Donald Fausset, Performance Supervisor.

I am sure that the following quotation expresses the feelings of all of the county committees who have served throughout the years:

"God has lent us the earth for our life. It is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us as to us and we have no right by anything we do or neglect to involve them in any unnecessary penalties or deprive them of the benefit which was in our power to bequeath." -- Ruskin  
(1940 ACP Annual Report)

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WESTON COUNTY

1962 and 1963 COUNTY COMMITTEE AND PERSONNEL



Left to right: Ruth Gamber, Chief Clerk; Dean Ross, County Office Manager; Francis Walker, County Committeeman; Dean Materi, County Committeeman; Leo Perino, Chairman County Committee; and Hettie M. Kleiber, Program Clerk.

Missing from the picture is Arlowe Hulette, County Agent and ex-officio member of the County Committee.





HISTORY OF WESTON ASCS COUNTY OFFICE  
September 19, 1963

This year, the Department of Agriculture has devoted 100 years to the utilization and conservation of our nation's soil and water resources. Abraham Lincoln first established the Agricultural Department in 1862 with Isaac Newton as the first commissioner. In 1889 the Bureau of Agriculture was made a part of the president's cabinet.

Since then the Department has broadened to include many agencies; the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services, Vo-Ag Education, Rural Electrification, Forestry, Soil Conservation, Veterinary Service, Agricultural Research and Farm Home Administration.

About 75 years after General Fremont's expedition reported the tall wheat grass covering the plains of southern Wyoming, Weston County was assigned its first Agricultural Agent, George F. Homstead. He initiated educational programs for the improvement of farming and animal husbandry. He was followed by P. T. Meyers, A. V. Hay, W. L. Chapman, Perry Clay, Robert Bledsoe and at this time Arlowe Hullett is the County Agent.

In 1921, national farming had problems in conserving the land for the future and over-production. After World War I the rehabilitation of European countries brought about mechanized farming methods in order to supply these foreign markets. As these countries became self sufficient our products were no longer needed and it became a round robin of being able to succeed in production but not finding a market.

In 1929 the Hoover administration attempted to stabilize farm prices and increase farm income. Soon after this an Agricultural Adjustment Act initiated a plan to administer locally farm legislation to bring supply more into line with demand and put farm income on a parity basis. A farmers committee was organized in Weston County in 1933 with A. V. Hay, County Agricultural Agent, as acting secretary. Serving on this first farmers committee were Joe Watt, Blaine Pleak, John Materi, John Christensen, and Dave Rawhouser, Sr.

The sheep, cattle and hog buying program was one of the first programs administered by this committee. Later the committee handled an Emergency Feed and Seed Loan Program. In 1936 a two part conservation program was initiated; a rangeland conservation program and a cropland conservation program. More than 50% of the farmers and ranchers in this county participated. These two parts were later combined under the Agriculture Conservation Program. Marketing quotas for basic commodities were also set at this time, paying payments for voluntary reduction. By this time farmers had gone the full cycle, they had been advised to "grow more" then to "diversify" and finally to "cooperate".

The Wyoming farmer and rancher in 1930 was destined to struggle with drought, insects and stock diseases in varying degrees for the next seven years. Drought began late in 1930 and continued until 1937. During this time ACP livestock wells practice was the most used. The grass lands could not carry the 14,827 animal units recorded in the county at that time. Grazing capacity fell downward from 32 acres per unit to an all time low. Seeding practices were encouraged and 4,561 acres of cropland was seeded to

permanent cover and 849 acres were renovated under the ACP program. Plowing of the dry loose soil had created the dust bowl areas and soil was swept up in hot dry winds. The coming of the mormon cricket cleaned the ground of the last green foliage. The unrelenting forces of nature wrung the earth dry and the staunch rancher and farmer almost lost faith. Rains late in 1937 brought recovery programs to the area.

In 1936 we had 637 operating farms in this county, the present count is 215 farms. Consistently, the Agriculture Conservation Program has had the largest participation. From 1936 through 1941 a total of 2,388 conservation practices were complete. Stockmen have used the dam practice more than any other conservation practice. One thousand dams were built in the 1936 through 1941 period, 150 wells drilled and 250 springs developed.

In 1941 the crop and rangeland building practices found 286 farms participating and completing 420 practices. Seeding practices on cropland and rangeland has continued to be a much used practice. In 1942, 310 wheat allotments were set, 111 were set for the 1962 crop year.

From 1939 through 1942, 130 farms seeded 4,704 acres of perennial grasses. The parity program of 1941 had 165 farms participating with payments, for diverting acreages from soil depleting crops, of \$20,761. In 1943, 59 farmers participated in the dairy feed program and supplement payments were made on 864.00 cwt. whole milk and 4,467 pounds of butterfat sold.

1954 was the first year the wool incentive payment program was available, payment for shorn wool and unshorn lamb sales were made in 1955. Twenty-six applications were filed on the lamb program and payments of \$1,224 were made. Forty-five shorn wool applications were paid \$25,463.

In 1958 an Acreage Reserve program was initiated and 22 agreements were made. A second part of the Soil Bank Program was a Conservation Program which took in a wide variety of cropland. Five five-to-ten year contracts were approved.

Sagebrush removal has been a practice which has gotten more interest recently. Approximately 8,147 acres have been sprayed since 1960.

The Feed Grain Program of 1961 had 18 participants. This was the first year for the program. 1962 brought the Feed Grain Program and the Wheat Stabilization Program, a total of 97 participated in these programs.

Drought condition of 1960 through 1962 brought the Emergency Livestock Feed Program. Forty-four applications were approved the first year. In 1961-62, 142 applications were approved and 2,030,200 pounds of feed grains were delivered to stock growers of the county, in addition Weston County producers took delivery on 2,347,024 pounds of grain from Butte County.

Emergency ACP program of 1961 found 70% of the cropland farms and 40% of the rangeland farms participating in some conservation practices.

The Marketing Quota Referendum had 98% of the eligible voters voting yes in the 1953 and in the 1962 Referendum 70% voted in favor of marketing quotas.



Weston County -

The farmer committees have had many and varied tasks to carry out since the beginning of the committee system. The first hog buying programs have been followed by: Seed Loans, Allotments Marketing Quotas, CCC Loans, Wheat Parity, the War Board Programs, Feed Wheat, Farm Storage Facility Loans, National Wool Act, Soil Bank and since 1961 the Feed Grain and the Wheat Stabilization Programs.

Most of the farmers and ranchers of the county have served on these committees over the years. On county office records we find these committeemen: Scott M. Moore, Walter J. Peterson, Chester Hamilton, T. R. Elliott, Alvin Watson, Fred Duvall, Earl Christensen, Emil Driskell, Albert Taylor, Vernon Simmons, Ernest Todd, E. C. Dixon, Herbert Quest, Omer Rawhouser, Joe Podio, W. R. Cummings, Laurence Popham, J. W. Lissolo, Lloyd Tysdal, J. A. Borgialli, J. C. Borgialli, Lesley Simpson, Leslie Watt, Steven Mirich, Jr., Roscoe Austin, Charles Schuette, Gerald Darrow, Clinton R. Sweet, Orin Carr, Donald Croxton, Willis Sewell, David Peterson, John Ertman, Leo Ertman, Francis Cowger, Ralph Fillinger, Christy Smith, Paul Baker, U. C. Arner, Arthur Williams, Francis Carr, Dick Webster, Lyle Hamilton, Thomas Mitich, Jimmy Hansen and Millard Mitich.

In the beginning the Agriculture Conservation Program was surveyed by the ASCS county office personnel. From these records, range supervisors and fieldmen were: John Gibbs, Henry Tavegie, V. E. Lissolo, Fred Perino, Alvin Watson and Herbert Quest. Later the Soil Conservation Service was brought in to supervise this work and in 1955 Roger Guild began this work. Since then, Orvin Bennett, Earl Hart and Morris Clark have continued in that office.

County ASCS office personnel have included the following: Jean McArthur, Rose Hansen, Theresa Julien, Dora Henderson, Charlotte Stockton, Bernice Wocicki, Alvin Watson, Kathleen McKaffick, Chester Hamilton and Shirley Sutton. State Farmer Fieldman Howard Wham was the county's first District Fieldman.

Members of the present county committee are Leo Perino, Francis Walker, Dean Materi, Melvin Pollat and Edward Pzinski.

Present county office personnel includes Dean Ross, County Office Manager, Ruth Gamber and Marilyn Smothers, Clerks, and George Gibbs is the State District Farmer Fieldman.

\* \* \* \* \*





STATE COMMITTEEMEN



GROUPED ABOVE ARE THE PICTURES OF THE 27 MEN WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY AND EFFECTIVELY SERVED WYOMING AGRICULTURE AS STATE COMMITTEEMEN UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE AND PREDECESSOR AGENCIES (AAA, PMA, ASC). THEIR NAMES AND YEARS OF SERVICE ARE:

TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

W. M. TIERNEY	W. J. RALEIGH	GEORGE G. REED	T. D. O'NEIL	LEROY MOORE	HEBER S. TIPPETTS	
12-1-36 TO	5-1-36 TO	5-1-36 TO	12-1-36 TO	7-1-38 TO	5-1-36 TO	
1-1-38*	4-13-38	7-1-38*	12-31-38*	3-19-41*	6-30-45*	*DECEASED

SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

CARROLL S. MOHR	ADRIAN C. SHOEMAKER	ROY SNELL	A. E. BOWMAN	HILTON M. BRIGGS	W. PALMER GORMLEY	R. LESTER CROMPTON
4-13-43 TO	12-22-38 TO	7-9-46 TO	5-1-36 TO	7-1-51 TO	4-25-47 TO	1-1-39 TO
5-31-46	10-1-46	12-31-46	6-30-51	3-31-52	6-26-53	6-26-53
			DIR. EXT. SER.	DIR. EXT. SER.		

THIRD ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

WALLACE R. MORTON	THOMAS STRAND	HOMER C. OXLEY	ROBT. L. HENDERSON	MARVIN YOUNG	S. ROGER MILLS	HAROLD JOLLEY
1-2-47 TO	10-3-45 TO	6-29-53 TO	6-29-53 TO	6-29-53 TO	7-11-55 TO	1-1-56 TO
6-26-53	6-26-53	12-31-54	12-31-55	12-31-56	6-30-58	12-31-59

FOURTH ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

BRUCE MURRAY	U. S. ARCHIBALD	JAY B. BROWN	G. H. STARR	RAYMOND JOHNSON	DONALD C. GOSE	SHERMAN T. GUSTIN
3-9-60 TO	1-1-57 TO	7-1-58 TO	4-1-52	4-24-61	4-24-61	4-24-61
4-21-61	4-21-61	4-21-61				

DIR. EXT. SER.



### WYOMING STATE OFFICE STAFF

The pictures in this format were used  
to develop the State Office Christmas  
card for 1963

Sherman T. Gustin  
G. H. Starr  
Raymond Johnson  
Donald C. Gose  
John O. Asay  
Irene Church  
Marian Franks  
Raymond Shelsta  
Emma Jourgensen  
Mabel Wergin  
T. Lloyd Jones  
George Lowham

Milton Turner  
John Loveland  
Gordon von Forell  
George Gibbs  
Wilfred Longpre  
Virginia McFall  
Alice Fisher  
Dan Reynolds  
Al Cheesbrough  
Ross Brown  
Irma "Jerry" Cheesbrough  
Ruth Sherman  
Joe Prochaska  
Helen McCall





HISTORY OF THE WYOMING ASCS STATE OFFICE  
September 15, 1963

The two men were in trouble. The falling snow was whipped by the wind into a howling blizzard, and the road had become a slippery glaze of ice. Snake River Canyon in western Wyoming was no place to be in this cold wintry storm which threatened to cut off all avenues of escape. The road had been completed only a short time, and was little more than a trail in these early 1940's. The car was bogged down in new snow, and would do no more than spin and skid from side to side of the road. The efforts of the one man to push the car up the hill met with little success, and the situation seemed hopeless. George Lowham stopped pushing to catch his breath and suggested to the driver of the car that perhaps they had better put on the chains. Wilfred Longpre's reply was a classic of simplicity.

"What chains?", he said. He didn't own a pair of chains.

The story ended happily, although not without a lot of effort. As this experience has faded in retrospect the humor of the situation has overshadowed the other more serious side, and it has been accepted as part of the "good old days".

In 1962, as the United States Department of Agriculture has become 100 years old, this is but one short page in a centennial of service. It is surely fitting and proper that we should look back, at this point, to review some of the history that has helped to make our Agriculture and our Nation so strong and productive.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, while only one of several branches of USDA, is the agency with which we will primarily deal in this article. It was born in the drought-stricken depression years of the early thirties, sometimes referred to as the "black" thirties.

#### BIRTH OF AAA

The Agricultural Adjustment Act was approved May 12, 1933, and Agricultural Adjustment Administration, commonly known as the "Triple A", was created at the Washington level and assigned the responsibility to administer the Act.

This gave birth the same year to a skeleton organization in Wyoming at both the State and county level with the administration assigned to the Extension Service. A. E. Bowman, State Director of Extension Service was also designated as State Administrator of AAA programs in Wyoming.

The first such program in Wyoming was the Wheat Production Adjustment Program, 1933-35. This program proposed to make contracts providing for certain payments to wheat producing farmers, for the years of 1933, 1934 and 1935, who would agree to make certain reductions in their wheat acreage. Such reductions were for the purpose of furthering the plan of establishing and maintaining balance between the production and consumption of wheat and the marketing conditions thereof so the purchasing power of wheat with respect to articles that farmers bought would be restored to the level of August 1909 through July 1914.

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Committees of elected farmers were formed in each Agricultural community and in each county to administer the AAA programs. This farmer committee system is the epitome of democracy in action, and has characterized the administration of all farm programs at the State and county level throughout the history of this agency. The local County Agent acted as Secretary to the committee.

At the State level a Board of Review was organized consisting of F. P. Lane, County Agent Leader; A. W. Willis, Assistant Extension Economist; and Arnold J. King, Federal-State Statistician. In the spring of 1934, A. D. Faville, former State Commissioner of Agriculture and former Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Wyoming, was appointed Compliance Director. His duties were to instruct and supervise acreage measurements and to be sure producers complied with their wheat contracts. He had two teams of engineers to work in the field. One team was Professor R. S. Sink, Engineering College, and his son. The other was Eliot Hitchcock and Alan W. Holiday.

On January 11, 1934, the 1934-35 Corn-Hog Adjustment Program started in Wyoming. This program was also under the direction of A. E. Bowman, State Director of the Extension Service. The purpose of the program was to bring a balance between the production and consumption of corn and hogs.

In 1935 the State Boards of Review were composed of the following people:

State Grain Board

W. J. Raleigh	Producer	Chugwater, Wyoming
George Knutson	Federal-State Agricultural Statistician	
Donald R. Sabin	State Supervisor	
Earl R. Johnson	Clerk of the Board	
Oliver N. Summers	Compliance Director	

Corn-Hog State Board

W. H. Preuit	Producer	Wheatland, Wyoming
Arnold King	State Statistician	
A. W. Willis	Extension Economist	
A. D. Faville	Compliance Director	

On June 1, 1934, a cattle and sheep buying program was placed in operation with J. R. Neale, Livestock Specialist, placed in charge. This program was for the purpose of bringing cattle and sheep production in balance with consumption. About this time many producers of beef and mutton found themselves in a financial position where the proceeds from the sale of their stock would not pay the freight bill and commission charges of moving the stock to market. Under this program surplus numbers of livestock were purchased by the government and slaughtered. Over the years this program has received sharp criticism, but it is extremely doubtful if any other course of action would have quickly achieved the desired balance between production and consumption in this time of dire immediate need. The program was of short duration during a time of critical emergency.

ASCS OFFICES ESTABLISHED

The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act was amended in 1936 to provide for the Agricultural Conservation Program. On May 1st of that year



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Donald R. Sabin took over the duties as Executive Secretary for the AC Program. Headquarters were in room 208 of the Agriculture Building, University of Wyoming, in Laramie. These quarters soon proved inadequate, and the offices were moved to room 309 of the same building. On May 18 the first full-time clerk was hired. In September the beginning of the school year and the need for room 309 as a classroom forced another move to rooms 303 and 304 of the Science Hall.

At the Washington level a decision was made to decentralize program administration, and handle it on a State basis as much as possible. This caused a rapid increase in workload at the State level and the hiring of additional employees as the workload increased. On June 30, 1937, the staff consisted of the following full-time employees:

Donald R. Sabin	Executive Secretary
Albert O. Kelly	Principal Field Assistant
Floyd M. Roush	Conservation Engineer
Harold Abel	Agricultural Statistician
William N. Bergren	District Engineer
Mary Whalen	Accountant
Josephine Lewis	Assistant Accounting & Lot Clerk
Scoville R. Heckert	Audit Clerk
Jean Blair	Assistant Audit Clerk
Laurel Nelson	Principal Stenographer
Margie Miller	Stenographer
Lois Shawver	Association Expenses
Kay Thompson	Adj. Lot Clerk
Marvin Will	Statistical Clerk
Harold Haskins	Jr. Statistical Clerk
Hugh McDonald	Jr. Statistical Clerk

State Committeemen serving at this time were:

	<u>Date Appointed</u>	<u>Served Through</u>
W. J. Raleigh, Chugwater	5/1/36	4/13/38
George G. Reed, Pine Bluffs	5/1/36	7/1/38
Heber S. Tippets, Lovell	5/1/36	6/30/45
T. D. O'Neil, Big Piney	12/1/36	12/31/38
W. M. Tierney, Rawlins	12/1/36	1/1/38

FIRST ACPROGRAM

The Agricultural Conservation Program met with immediate response from the ranchers and farmers of Wyoming. In its first year of operation (1936) 9,207 producers participated in the cropland conservation program, and 2,158 participated in the range conservation program.

In the early years of this program the technical layout work for ACP practices was furnished by county supervisors with supervision, training and assistance from personnel from the State office. It was common practice to load up a bedroll and go into a community for a week, traveling by horseback or team



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and wagon into rough country to stake a reservoir or other practice, and staying with the farmer or rancher where they were working. When you were made welcome and fed by people whose circumstances were such that they had a dirt floor in their house and the broken windows were stuffed with rags, you were about as close to the "grass roots" of a problem as you could get.

A supervisor had to be a pretty versatile character. Riding a rancher's version of a gentle saddlehorse in rough country with a transit slung over your shoulder was one way to keep from getting bored. One supervisor in Johnson County went out with a rancher in a two-wheeled cart. They got the reservoir staked, but on the way back the cart tipped over on a sideling place and the supervisor ended up with a broken leg.

#### OFFICE REORGANIZATION

In 1938 the membership of the State committee was reduced from five to four and several changes took place. They employed a person to supervise State office personnel and to see that their policies were carried out at the State and county levels. The first such employee had been Donald R. Sabin, who had served as Executive Secretary from May 1, 1936, through June 30, 1938. On July 1, 1938, he was succeeded by John J. McElroy, who also was designated Executive Secretary and served until November 16, 1943.

There were three changes in State Committeemen in 1938. The only original State Committeeman still serving after these changes was Heber S. Tippetts of Lovell. The three new committeemen, and others who served between this date and June 26, 1953, were:

	<u>Date Appointed</u>	<u>Served Through</u>
Leroy Moore, Ross	7/1/38	3/19/41
Adrian C. Shoemaker, Veteran	12/22/38	10/1/46
R. Lester Crompton, Evanston	1/1/39	6/26/53
Carroll S. Mohr, Douglas	4/13/43	5/31/46
Thomas Strand, Wyarno	10/3/45	6/26/53
Roy Snell, Byron	7/9/46	12/31/46
Wallace R. Morton, Huntley	1/2/47	6/26/53
W. Palmer Gormley, Burlington	4/25/47	6/26/53

Two other persons served as administrative "head" of State office operations under the direction of the State committee during this period. The first was Albert O. Kelly, Executive Assistant, who served from December 1, 1943 through May 1, 1945, when he resigned to accept employment at the National level in the agency. The other was Howard Wham, who then served as Executive Assistant from May 1, 1945 through July 30, 1947, when this position was discontinued for the balance of the period. Allen D. Cheesbrough was designated as Administrative Assistant, in charge of office operation. He served in this position until August 3, 1953 at which time a new position of State Administrative Officer was filled by appointment of R. J. Rymill.

Previous to his appointment as Executive Assistant, Mr. Wham had served with the agency as a liaison representative between the State office and county offices, a position which was first created in 1939 when the State committee

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determined a need for closer contact with county offices and employed two such persons with former county office experience. The other person so appointed was Elmer N. Johnson of Worland, who was assigned to service the counties in the western half of the State. Mr. Wham, formerly of Newcastle, received the same assignment in connection with the eastern counties of the State. Later in 1939 it was determined that four such liaison representatives were needed to adequately service the State. About July 1, 1939, the areas served were further divided and George W. Lowham of Evanston and Hubert E. Hart of Powell were employed to fill these positions. The positions originally carried the title of Senior Clerk, but the title was later changed to Farmer Fieldman to more clearly describe the duties performed. In addition to the four mentioned above, and excluding the persons presently serving, the following persons have served the State committee in this capacity over the years:

Fred Duvall	Rozet
Gene Farley	Casper
B. Delos Gardner	Afton
Harold Haskins	Laramie
Earl R. Johnson	Casper
T. Lloyd Jones	Lusk
Ray O. Kane	Carpenter
James W. Paulson	Lusk
Joseph H. Prochaska	Casper
Tom Rennard	Casper
William Salmela	Evanston
John A. Wilson	Jackson

1953 - 1961

In 1953 a change in administration decreased the number of State committeemen from four to three, and brought in an entirely new committee. They were Robert L. Henderson of Basin, Homer C. Oxley of Lingle, and Marvin Young of Buffalo. The requirements were changed to provide for a rotating term of office with replacements being made on a rotating basis as each of the staggered terms of office expired. These committeemen were appointed June 29, 1953, and on August 3, 1953, they appointed R. J. Rymill of Fort Laramie as State Administrative Officer, a position comparable with the ones formerly designated as Executive Assistant in the middle 1940's. The first term of a State committeeman to expire under these rules was that of Homer C. Oxley on December 31, 1954. He was replaced by S. Roger Mills of Wheatland on July 11, 1955. Mr. Henderson's term expired on December 31, 1955, and he was replaced on January 1, 1956, by Harold Jolley of Lovell. Marvin Young's term ended on December 31, 1956, and he was succeeded by U. S. Archibald of Pine Tree.

The terms of new appointees were then altered so that changes came up at 18 month intervals instead of 12 month intervals. Under this system the term of Roger Mills ended on June 30, 1958, and the subsequent committeeman was Jay Brown of Pine Bluffs, who was appointed on July 1, 1958. Harold Jolley's appointment terminated on December 31, 1959, and Bruce Murray of Powell was appointed on March 9, 1960, to become his successor.



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In 1961 another change in administration brought an end to the terms of the committeemen then serving on April 21, 1961, and the appointment of a new committee on April 24, 1961.

# CURRENT ORGANIZATION

This new State committee is currently serving the farmers and ranchers of Wyoming as we celebrate the centennial year of the creation of the United States Department of Agriculture. The value of such committees composed of farmers and ranchers in directing and applying Federal Farm Programs at the State and county level was quickly recognized and has proven invaluable over the years. Committee members are:

Raymond Johnson	Lingle	Chairman
Donald C. Gose	Upton	Vice-Chairman
Sherman T. Gustin	Fort Washakie	Member
Dr. G. H. Starr	State Director of Extension Service	
	Laramie	Ex-officio member

Currently directing and coordinating the activities of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Wyoming in carrying out the policies established by the State committee is John O. Asay, Executive Director, formerly of Lovell. Asay was appointed to his present position on June 28, 1961, after R. J. Rymill, former State Administrative Officer had resigned his position on June 6, 1961.

The number of employees in the State office, including Farmer Fieldman, have fluctuated throughout the years from a high of 55 employees in 1940-41 to the present number which is 21 full-time employees and one half-time employee. Space would not permit listing the names of all persons who have worked in the ASCS office throughout the years, but a list of these employees and the period of employment is being maintained in the State office.

The names of former employees run into the hundreds. Most of the current employees have worked in the State office for a good long time -- with a few having over 25 years service. Several have former county office experience. Following are the current employees:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Employed</u>
John O. Asay	State Executive Director	6/28/61
Irene M. Church	Secretary	6/15/53
Marian L. Franks	Secretary	9/18/61
Joseph H. Prochaska	Chief, Administrative Division	3/26/45
S. Raymond Shelsta	Administrative Assistant	4/10/46
Ross A. Brown	County Office Operations Assistant	10/1/52
Irma R. Cheesbrough	Secretary	11/13/46
Mabel F. Wergin	Accounts Maintenance Clerk	8/31/56
Ruth A. Sherman	Voucher Examiner (Typing)	11/17/52
Daniel K. Reynolds	General Supply Clerk	9/17/56
George W. Lowham	Program Specialist (ACP)	7/1/39
Virginia McFall	Secretary	6/26/50
Allen D. Cheesbrough	Program Specialist (Price Support)	11/1/37

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Helen V. McCall	Secretary	7/27/60
T. Lloyd Jones	Program Specialist (Compliance and Soil Bank)	5/9/49
Emma L. Jourgensen	Secretary	9/16/57
Wilfred E. Longpre	Program Specialist (Production Adjustment)	1/10/38
Alice M. Fisher	Secretary	11/17/52
George H. Gibbs	Farmer Fieldman, Northeast Area	9/8/45
John T. Loveland	Farmer Fieldman, Northwest Area	3/23/49
Gordon von Forell	Farmer Fieldman, Southeast Area	6/28/54
Milton M. Turner	Farmer Fieldman, Southwest Area	1/10/55

Times and travel conditions have changed a lot from early program days. Jeeps and four-wheel drive vehicles have brought almost any range location within short walking distance. ACP performance has even been checked in airplanes in some instances, with bush pilots making landings as necessary on the open prairie. Soil Conservation Service personnel have been assigned technical layout and performance responsibilities on many practices. All these things have tended to cut down the necessity for some of the valuable associations with farm producers, and no doubt we have lost a lot of good public relations contacts in the process.

#### DEVOTED EMPLOYEES

One commendable personnel relation observed over the years is that employees are willing to help one another to get the job done - the important thing being that all the employees are concerned with the good overall operation of the office. In other words, the employees refer to "we" rather than "I" when making reference to performing some function. This feeling of pride in the efficiency and productiveness of the ASCS State Office results in a happy, contented and productive family of employees. This close family relationship is reflected socially in an annual Christmas party and a summer picnic each year in the appropriate season.

Many of the employees who have been with the office a long time have had opportunities to go into jobs in private industry that would have paid better wages and been less demanding but they have remained with the ASCS State Office because of their pride in doing a good job in a field that means so much to our national economy. It has always been a common practice for personnel from the State office to work all day in the office or the field and then travel at night to be ready to begin work in another county office promptly at 8:00 a.m. the next day. The postman's code that "the mail must go through" could be paraphrased by Wyoming ASCS State employees to "the job must be done". Many times travelers went through when the roads were considered impassable. Farmer Fieldmen and County Office Managers have traveled to scheduled farmers' meetings on snowshoes or skis when roads were blocked by winter snowdrifts.

Winter blizzards are not unusual in Wyoming. They can create severe and hazardous conditions. Milton M. Turner remembers vividly a trip in the winter of 1955 when, while serving as a State auditor of county ASCS offices, he had an assignment to audit the Park County office. Mr. Turner attempted to make the trip from Casper to Powell on a Sunday afternoon to be ready to begin work at 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning. About 30 miles west of Casper he was turned back by the Wyoming highway patrol because the drifting snow had closed the



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main highway. At 4:00 a.m. the next morning he again headed for Powell on what would ordinarily be about a 4 hour trip. He soon found himself stalled on the prairie along with a line of other motorists. For several hours the blizzard was so severe that for the majority of the time the drifting snow completely obscured the next car, which was parked about three feet away. After snow plows freed the stalled line of motorists there were several times his car bogged down in drifts and Milton shoveled it free to continue a little farther. Finally at about 8:00 p.m. that evening the lights of Powell came in view, and they were indeed a welcome sight. Experiences similar to this have been shared by most ASCS State office travelers at one time or another.

Wyoming also provides other interesting, though sometimes dangerous experiences. Farmer Fieldman John T. Loveland was helping a county supervisor make some acreage measurements. He was intently watching the signals of the supervisor when he suddenly jumped about 20 feet sideways. The reason for this gymnastic feat was a huge rattlesnake that was contesting the right-of-way. From all reports Jack must have set some kind of a high jump record that day.

Our candidate for "did you ever have one of those days" experiences is our Chief of the Administrative Division, Joseph H. Prochaska. During an audit trip several years ago accompanied by the County Office Manager, he was checking a farm-stored commodity loan in a large round steel bin. Not realizing that there was a bad leak behind the door, he opened the door and out poured the wheat. In desperation he closed the door of the bin as much as possible and backed his car against it. He and the County Office Manager then found it necessary to open up the top of the bin, shovel several bushels of wheat to get the door back in place, and then meticulously gather up the spilled wheat, sack it and put it in an empty bin on the site. He finally completed the job and drove away wearier but wiser.

#### SPECIAL SERVICES

In emergencies and trying times such as World War II, ASCS offices have been called upon to join with other agencies of the USDA to perform necessary special services and functions. During World War II the Chairman of the ASC State Committee was also designated Chairman of the USDA State Mobilization Committee, later called the USDA State War Board. All agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Agriculture were represented on the Board. This Board was responsible within the State for such things as the distribution of farm machinery, tires, fuel, and other rationed commodities. They set goals for increasing food crop production, helped find farm labor, and encouraged the buying of war bonds. The Board also gave guidance to the USDA County War Boards in carrying out the above mentioned functions.

Currently the ASCS State Executive Director, John O. Asay, is Chairman of the USDA State Defense Board, the organization in charge of food management in the Civil Defense Program. This Board has grave and far-reaching responsibilities in the event of a nuclear attack on this country or in a major natural disaster.

During World War II our agency not only fulfilled their special responsibilities with flying colors, but we endured our share of inconveniences which the

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war brought to all. Travel was restricted to common carrier wherever possible. Farmer Fieldman George H. Gibbs recalls leaving the State office in Laramie at 4:30 a.m. by bus. The bus missed connections in Rawlins, and since there was only one bus per day between Rawlins and Casper, he had to spend the night in Rawlins. Upon arriving in Casper the next day, he found he had again missed connections with the only bus between Casper and Buffalo, his headquarters. After another layover he arrived in Buffalo at 11:00 a.m. the next morning, having spend 2-1/2 days traveling 265 miles.

In spite of the magnitude of our great State of Wyoming with its winter blizzards, summer downpours, inconveniences, and other risks, there have been only a very few minor accidents and no major accidents in our State organization. This is an accomplishment of which all employees can and should be proud.

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

The major function of ASCS State offices is to administer farm programs authorized by Congress and assigned by the Secretary of Agriculture to ASCS to administer. Since 1936 the Agricultural Conservation Program has been administered through the ASCS offices, the Sugar Program since 1937, the Price Support Programs since 1939, the Allotment and Marketing Quota Programs since 1941, the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program since 1949, the Wool Program since passage of the National Wool Act of 1954, the Soil Bank Program since 1956, and the Feed Grain and Wheat Stabilization Programs since 1961.

Through the Agricultural Conservation Program farmers and ranchers have learned the value and need of conserving their soil through such practices as seeding of legumes and grasses, reorganization of irrigation systems (including ditch lining, permanent drops and weirs, flumes, ditch enlargements, etc.), summer fallowing, stripcropping, contour farming, land leveling, irrigation water storage, erosion control, etc. Ranges have been improved through better distribution of livestock by practices such as stockwater reservoirs, wells, spring developments, deferred grazing, fencing, reseeding, spreader terraces and dams, etc.

A few examples of the magnitude of practices carried out in Wyoming under the ACProgram are:

- 33,284 stockwater dams built from 1936 through 1962.
- 9,949 stockwater wells drilled and flowing from 1936 through 1962.
- 9,923 spreader and erosion control dams built from 1938 through 1962.
- 520 dams for storing irrigation water built from 1946 through 1962.
- 5,481,920 rods, or 17,131 miles of fences built from 1936 through 1962  
for livestock and rangeland improvement.

Cost-share payments to farmers and ranchers for conservation measures, 1936 through 1962, amounted to \$47,140,109 plus \$365,838 under emergency ACP programs. The cost-share payments represented approximately 50 percent of the total cost of the conservation measures. The farmers and ranchers contributed the other 50 percent of the cost of carrying out these practices. In other words, conservation practices costing about \$95,000,000 were carried out on



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Wyoming farms and ranches in the 27-year period, as a result of the encouragement and incentive of the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Through the price support programs producers have learned to safely store commodities until the proper time to market, improve the quality of their crops, and to market their crops at a reasonable price and in an orderly manner rather than dumping their entire production on the market at harvest time when the trade cannot handle such a large supply. Experience has shown that many times storing the crop at harvest time for marketing two, three, or four months later helps the warehouseman, processors, and transporters and results in less waste and better prices.

From 1938 through 1962 we made 33,249 loans on 29,288,331 bushels of grain; 4,413,980 cwt. of beans; 1,780,169 cwt. of potatoes; 33,640 cwt. of hay and pasture seed; and 966,660 pounds of honey. The amount loaned producers was \$75,577,575. Producers signed 2,668 purchase agreements on 4,433,181 bushels of grain and 33,767 cwt. of beans, with a price support value of \$9,642,127.

Potatoes were purchased in years 1946 through 1950 and in 1953. A total of 673,501 cwt. of potatoes were purchased for \$1,095,588.

Total direct purchases, loans and purchase agreements amounted to \$86,315,290. The loans were repaid by cash with about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  percent interest, or by deliveries -- losses on collecting loans were less than  $\frac{1}{100}$  of 1 percent.

Through the Allotment and Marketing Quota Programs producers in general have learned that they can obtain a better gross return for their farming operations by reducing their acreage and marketing so the supply is more nearly in balance with demand.

Through the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program producers have learned the need for and value of adequate and good sound facilities on the farm to safely store their grain crops. Safe storage of their grain crops is equally important whether the grain is used for feeding on the farm or stored for later sale when the market demands the grain at a reasonable price.

1,735 loans for construction of 5,519,410 bushels of storage and 3 loans for mobile driers have been made by the county offices since June 1949. The amount loaned was \$1,432,020. Most of these loans have been completely repaid with 4 percent interest. All loans will be completely repaid at the maturity of the loan.

Through the Sugar Program the production of sugar beets was stabilized with a good balance between production and consumption. Consumers have been assured an abundant supply of sugar (except during wartime rationing) and at very reasonable prices.

In the 26 years between 1937 and 1962 the sugar beet growers were paid \$31,340,449 under this program. The program is financed by a processors' tax placed on every pound of sugar produced. The tax was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per pound. The processing tax collected each year more than paid for the program payments and administrative expenses. Therefore, each year some of the processing tax revenue went into the U. S. Treasury general fund.

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Through the wool program the production of wool has been increased in spite of severe drought conditions (in several years), low market price of wool (in some years), and increased competition from man-made fibers. Increased domestic production is desirable, since our Nation presently consumes more wool than it produces.

From 1955 through 1962 marketing years, approximately 24,513 payments were made under the shorn wool program and 20,127 payments under the unshorn lamb program. The total payments in these 8 years to wool growers amounted to \$33,543,567. The programs were financed by collections from import duties on wool and woolen manufactures coming into this country.

Through the Soil Bank Program large acreages of cropland have been diverted from production of crops in surplus to permanent cover.

Through the Feed Grain and Wheat Stabilization Programs started in 1961 production of feed grains and wheat were reduced below consumption for the first time since 1952. As a result of these programs unneeded inventories of commodities in government storage were reduced so the CCC inventory on July 1, 1962 was the lowest on these grains since 1954.

Each of the programs administered by the ASCS offices fits into an overall program that has helped to keep agriculture strong and an abundant supply of food in this Nation. The massive might of our Agricultural potential is the ideal of many other nations, the envy of the Communist world, and a sobering deterrent to any attempt at aggression. Cost of food to consumers is a bargain and progress is being made in reducing production of crops in surplus to consumption. The soils are being conserved and enriched for greater production in times of need.

In summary, the ASCS State Office began as the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) State Office in 1936, later changed to Agricultural Adjustment Agency (AAA) State Office. On August 18, 1945, through Secretary's Memorandum No. 1118, the name was changed to the Production and Marketing Administration (PMA) State Office and again in 1953 it was changed to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) State Office. Recently the name was changed to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) State Office. The State office was originally located in Laramie, Wyoming, and moved to Casper, Wyoming, June 26, 1946, in order to be more centrally located within the State. From this central location it is possible to give better and more economical service to the ASCS county offices.

Each of the changes in name were for the purpose of more clearly designating, in the name of the office, the services we perform and the fields of agricultural endeavor that the programs we administer are intended to cover in stabilizing agriculture and the economy of the Nation.

#### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Looking forward we of the ASCS State Office will continue our untiring efforts to accomplish, through the programs we administer, (1) an income for agriculture on an equal basis with income from other segments of our economy, (2) a better balance between production and consumption, (3) continued conservation



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of our soils and water, and (4) the best fed Nation in the world at bargain prices. All of these accomplishments will mean a healthier economy in our rural area, which in turn means more money in the pockets of the urban population and a stronger economy throughout our State and Nation.

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